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GREAT CLASS DIVIDE

Selection system is facing attack over new school exclusion figures

EXCLUSIVE

By **PHIL REILLY**

VIRTUALLY no pupils expelled from Kent schools come from grammars, according to latest figures.

Critics claim it is further evidence that the selective schooling system is failing children.

Statistics released by Kent County Council show that of the 308 pupils permanently excluded from secondary schools across the county in 2005-06, seven were from grammar schools – just 2.27 per cent.

Almost a third of all Kent's 104 secondary schools are grammars.

In 2004-05, just eight of 301 pupils excluded from secondaries were from grammars. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

Martin Frey, from anti-grammar school campaign group Stop the Eleven Plus (STEP), claimed the number of children excluded from all schools would be reduced if grammars were scrapped.

He said life for pupils in non-grammar schools in Kent was much harder than in areas that did not have selective schooling because there was a higher concentration of disruptive pupils.

He told Kent on Sunday: "All the challenging children tend to be at non-grammar schools as the selection system concentrates those that may have behavioural or learning problems in the secondary modern schools."

Mr Frey said that fewer problem pupils would reach the point of expulsion if such pupils were "evenly spread around the county", because more of a school's resources could be spent on each child.

He also claimed that the figures for grammar school exclusions were low because difficult children are "eased out" of grammars.

He added: "Parents are pressured and persuaded that their children would be better off somewhere else

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



LEGENDARY POSE: Dame Margot Fonteyn, one of the best dancers of our time, by Roger Wood, her favourite photographer

The late, great dame of ballet features in new photographic exhibition

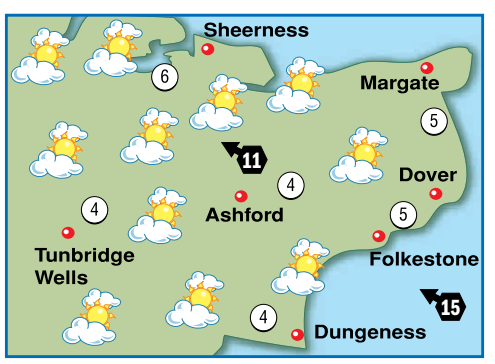
SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY



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Kent today



TODAY: It will be dry with some long spells of winter sunshine and variable amounts of patchy cloud. Gentle southeasterly winds. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F).
TONIGHT: Dry and cold with variable cloud and clear intervals. Moderate north-easterly winds. Min temp -1 to 2C (30 to 36F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	sun	2	36	London	fair	3	37
Belfast	fair	5	41	Liverpool	sun	5	41
Birmingham	cloudy	6	43	Manchester	fair	3	37
B'mouth	fair	3	37	Newcastle	fair	4	39
Bristol	fair	6	43	Norwich	fair	5	41
Cardiff	fair	4	39	Oxford	fair	3	37
Cork	cloudy	8	46	Southsea	sun	4	39
Edinburgh	fair	2	36	S'hampton	fair	3	37
Glasgow	cloudy	5	41	Southport	sun	–	–
Isle of Man	fair	7	45	Swansea	fair	6	43
Leeds	mist	2	36	Torquay	fair	6	43

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.56am	Sunset	3.46pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	11.40am	Moonset	11.16pm	3.46pm to 7.57am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	02.48	6.1	15.13	5.8	03.40	6.0	16.14	5.7
Margate	03.28	4.3	16.20	4.1	04.21	4.2	17.20	4.1
St Mary's	08.45	5.0	21.11	4.6	09.40	4.9	22.12	4.6

Week ahead

monday Bright. Dry. max 5C min 1C
tuesday Sunny spells. max 5C min 1C
wednesday Sunny spells. max 5C min 1C
thursday Fine and dry. max 6C min 3C
friday Cloudy. Dry. max 6C min 4C
saturday Cloudy. Dry. max 7C min 4C

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Gateway chief is in 'shock' at dismissal

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

THE former chief executive of the £9 billion Thames Gateway project has been left "devastated" after an "out of the blue" sacking.

Judith Armitt's departure was announced to stakeholders in a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) permanent secretary Peter Housden.

Mrs Armitt, former chief executive of Medway Council, had only been in the job for a year.

Last month she was at the Thames Gateway Forum in London for the launch of a £9 billion delivery plan for the project by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The plans involve 160,000 houses being built by 2016 in an area stretching 40 miles eastwards from Canary Wharf to the mouth of the Thames Estuary, taking in Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale. It also aims to create 225,000 jobs.

A source close to Mrs Armitt told Kent on Sunday: "Judith has been treated very badly. Despite the successful launch of the delivery plan two weeks ago, Peter Housden just called her in out of the blue and said he wanted her to go.

"His actions are unjustified and grossly unfair. Judith is devastated.

"She can't believe what has happened and neither can her work colleagues or others who have experienced Judith in her role."

The source said the sacking happened "just a few days" after the forum at the end of



SCAPEGOAT? Judith Armitt was sacked

November, at which Mrs Armitt had said: "I don't want to spend my career drawing plans, I took this job to deliver the Thames Gateway."

Alistair Burt, Conservative shadow local government minister, said he feared the Government was using Mrs Armitt as a scapegoat.

He said: "The sacking of Judith Armitt is either scapegoating or, just as bad, it's a misunderstanding of what needs to be done. If they think changing the chief executive will solve all the Gateway's problems they are wrong.

"The sense I've had is the Government is rubbishing Judith and making the case that she's lost the job because she's not been up to it."

The Department for Communities and Local Government would not comment on Mrs Armitt's departure, but did release the letter sent by Mr Housden to stakeholders.

It read: "Following the successful launch of the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan a fortnight ago, we are now discussing Judith Armitt's next move. Judith has made a tremendous contribution to the progress we have seen in the Gateway."

The property industry website Building.co.uk this week quoted Thames Gateway sources as saying that the delivery plan put together by Mrs Armitt had to be rewritten after housing minister Yvette Cooper deemed it "not up to scratch".

The source said: "It has been a fiasco. Yvette is unhappy. The plans from a week ago had to be torn up."

Tory Mr Burt said he had spoken to Ms Cooper this week and she had given him "a peal of praise about the last 12 months of the Gateway".

But when he asked her about the sacking, he said she looked surprised and said "that's a personnel matter".

Last month, a report by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee described the project's management as "weak" and warned that unless serious changes happened, "it will remain a series of disjointed projects and is unlikely to achieve its full potential to make a major difference to economic regeneration and sustainable housing".

Joe Montgomery, director general of places and communities for the DCLG, will now take over Mrs Armitt's duties.

Find more news and sport updated daily online www.kentnews.co.uk

'Selection and exclusion not linked'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

without it being a formal exclusion. The impact of easing them out is that it never turns up in the figures."

The school with the highest number of exclusions last year was Astor College for the Arts in Dover with 20. It is run by principal Chris Russell, the former husband of Jan Leeming, the TV newsreader.

Thamesview in Gravesend, Aylesford School and Tunbridge Wells High School all excluded 14 pupils in 2005-06.

Sally Williamson, head of Kent's attendance and behaviour service, said she did not want to be drawn into a debate about grammar schools but insisted "we have no evidence that we are putting any pupils at a disadvantage at secondary modern schools".

Tiresome

She added: "Obviously, the reasons for exclusions can vary. I think the reason the numbers are lower at grammar schools is down to the motivation of the pupils who are attending the school."

Chris Wells, KCC cabinet member for children, families and educational standards, said: "I am saddened, though not surprised, to see Mr Frey pedalling his rather tiresome campaign against the 11-plus with ever more tenuous evidence.

"There is no proven link as far as I'm aware between selection and the levels of exclusion.

"There is, however, increasingly obvious evidence that even this government prefers to give schools some degree of control to select pupils in admissions procedures.

"I hope and trust that Kent on Sunday will record the factual position, some of which will include the laudable work undertaken by all schools to keep children in education.

"We all know that sterling efforts are made to encourage children to achieve their best at school and we should applaud that and not be diverted by some campaigning mischief."

Grammar

In Medway, 54 pupils were excluded from secondary schools in 2006-07, compared with 32 in 2005-06 and 55 in 2004-05. Medway Council was unable to say how many of those were from grammar schools.



French plans to remove emperor's remains come under fire

Napoleon RIP

(Which means rest in peace, not in Paris)

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE remains of the last emperor and first president of France are at the centre of a new Napoleonic war.

Napoleon III, his wife Empress Eugenie and their son the Prince Imperial are in a tomb at St Michael's Abbey in Farnborough, Hampshire.

But now the French government wants their remains returned to their native soil. Christian Estrosi, the French Foreign Secretary, visited the abbey on Monday.

Abbot Cuthbert Brogan, the Benedictine monk in charge of the monastery that has been home to the Imperial family for more than 120 years, said the remains should stay put.

"In my view, if the French want to remember Napoleon III they should put a massive statue up in Paris or do something serious, but do not, just for the sake of some political gesture, separate the family," he said.

Father Cuthbert feared that if the remains were returned, the French would want Napoleon III buried alongside Napoleon I at Les Invalides in Paris.

"It is a military shrine and they would not want Eugenie buried there, nor is there space, plus the Prince Imperial is buried in a British army uniform," he said.

Completion

Napoleon III, his wife Empress Eugenie and their son the Prince Imperial were exiled to England after the Third Republic deposed the Emperor in 1870.

The Imperial family set up home in Chislehurst, where Napoleon III died from kidney failure and septicaemia in 1873.

In 1879, the Prince Imperial was killed during the Zulu War. He was buried with his father at St Mary's Church in Chislehurst.

The Empress, crushed by the loss of her son and husband, moved to Farnborough and built St Michael's as a monastery and Imperial mausoleum, Father Cuthbert said.

She had the remains moved to the abbey after its completion.

Father Cuthbert said: "I see no reason whatsoever why they should be returned. The family has rested here in silence and peace without interest. Why should they now be disturbed or moved to France?"

The Empress died in 1920 and King George and Queen Elizabeth went to her funeral, but no one attended from France, he said.

Ahead of his trip, Monsieur Estrosi said: "This trip will be for me an occasion to send a clear message to the British, to thank them for all they did for the Imperial couple in exile, but also to remind them we have some rights over them."

A spokesman for the French Embassy in London said the French Government agreed with Monsieur Estrosi.

But Father Cuthbert said the issue of the remains did not come up during his private meeting with Monsieur Estrosi.

Father Cuthbert added: "It is a shame they did not return to France from the old Eurostar station – a retreat from Waterloo."

The Department for Overseas Territories in France was unavailable for comment as this paper went to press.





Portrait: FRANZ WINTERHALTER

HOLY ORDER: Abbott Cuthbert Brogan says Napoleon III's remain should stay in England

News and sport updated daily online
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Your 50p will help us to help Kent children

KOS Media, the publisher of Kent on Sunday, will again be publishing charity editions of your favourite county newspaper.

The award-winning company last year raised £11,000 for the Kent Kids for Christmas appeal through the sale of Christmas and New Year editions.

Of this, £7,000 will be donated to Invicta FM's Help A Kent Child, £2,000 to Demelza House and £2,000 to Dave Lee's Happy Holidays.



This year will be the third that KOS Media has produced special editions.

So far, the company has raised more than £20,000 to help needy children in Kent.

The newsagents and wholesalers have also helped with this appeal by donating part of their normal fees for handling the newspapers to the charity.

These newspapers will be available on Sunday December 23, and Sunday December 30, priced just 50p.

All profits made from the sales will be donated to charity.

Paul Stannard, managing director of KOS Media, said: "We try hard to provide the people of Kent with a quality free newspaper throughout the year and during this festive time it would be great for everyone to kindly put their hands in their pockets to help the children of Kent, particularly the needy ones.

"They are our future, after all."

Readers of the special editions will be able to enjoy all of the regular news and features plus our own review of the year. Copies will be available from newsagents.

The Saturday Observer and our Review magazine will be incorporated into Kent on Sunday for the fortnight.

You can also make your own donations to our appeal by visiting our website www.kentkidsforchristmas.co.uk

NHS trust is hit by bed shortage

A HOSPITAL went into a state of red alert this week.

The 24-hour alert was called at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford on Wednesday because it was nearing capacity.

East Kent NHS Hospitals Trust said bed shortages could occur in winter because more patients are admitted at this time of year.

The trust said: "The reason we use the escalation system is variable and can be due to increases in admissions through A&E, delays in discharging patients or an increase of infection due to the winter vomiting disease for example."

The trust acknowledged it had reduced bed numbers in the last year, but said that move had not decreased its services.

Parties clash on bus pass scheme

A ROW has broken out between Labour and Conservative county councillors over bus passes for foster children.

Labour councillors claimed the Tory administration did not pay its own £50 charge to allow looked-after children unlimited bus travel using its Freedom Pass scheme.

Labour Cllr Clive Hart said: "I was appalled to discover that KCC was providing subsidised bus travel for children at private schools, but orphans and other disadvantaged kids were excluded."

But Tory Cllr Alex King, said: "The situation is that in the pilot areas the foster parents of the looked-after children are given the Fostering Allowance which covers transport costs. All they have to do apply for the Freedom Pass in the normal way."

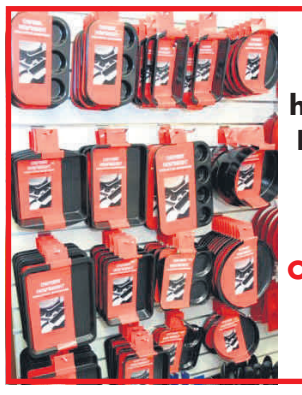
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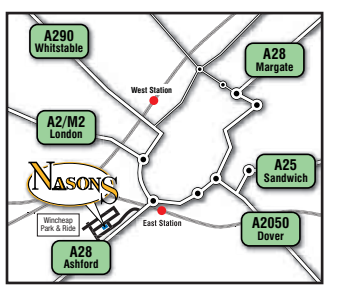
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FA onside over plans for a new disabled adult league

THE Football Association has backed plans to start a disabled league for adults in Kent, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.





GRAND PLAN: John Harvey (circled right), with players from his under-16 team, wants to set up an adults league. KCFA's Barry Bright (left) is backing him

Disabled children can play football for seven teams across the county until they are 16, but there is currently no provision for adult players.

But one former semi-professional player is working hard to change that.

John Harvey, who is head of disability football for Maidstone United, said that after a meeting with the FA on Wednesday he hoped to have an adult league for disabled players set up by next September.

A spokesman for the FA said the association backed Mr Harvey's plans to develop the league in the county.

Jeff Davis, the FA's national disability development manager, said: "What we'd really like to do is replicate the mainstream game and give disabled players the same chance to play at a level that's right for them, week in week out.

"Disabled people often think that they can't play the game because of their disability but that couldn't be further from the truth because there's an opportunity for everyone to play."

Mr Harvey's team for disabled youngsters, called the Maidstone Raiders, has been running successfully for four years, but some of the players are now too old to play in matches.

Goodwill

Mr Harvey, who was in the Leeds United youth squad and played for Halifax Town, said: "For me it is about inclusion. These kids are just like other children and adults so why should they not have the opportunity to engage in our national sport?

"I've seen parents crying on the sidelines because they are seeing their kid in a football shirt, when they never thought they would engage in a competition and have the chance to win trophies.

"It gives a real goodwill feeling for everyone involved – I get more enjoyment out of seeing those kids play than I ever did playing semi-pro football."

The 47-year-old Yorkshireman, who has been living in Maidstone since 1991, said two of his players are now 18 and are not allowed to take part in matches.

He has made them assistant coaches, but said their desire to play inspired him to create an adult league so that youngsters could continue to compete as they grew up.

"You have to see the smiles on their faces. It gives them life skills too," he said.

"Sometimes they can feel separated, but they become really involved in the team – they live for their football.

"The [adult] league would be a really big boost for them," he said.

St Margaret's from Dover, the Invicta Valiants from Ashford, Swanscombe, Gillingham, Charlton Athletic and Larkfield are the teams for disabled youngsters currently competing in the junior league.

They are pan-disability teams, meaning the players have a range of disabilities including Down's Syndrome, cerebral palsy, ADHD and loss of hearing.

Barry Bright, chairman of the Kent County Football Association, is fully behind a league for disabled adults.

He told Kent on Sunday: "We would look positively at any approach we had. We are delighted with the work that has gone on with youngsters with disabilities.

"It has been a huge success and has been another lead by the KCFA in the country."

If you or anyone you know has a disability, is aged over 16 and wants to join the league call Mr Harvey on 07836 201 230.

News and sport updated daily online
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Home Secretary 'politically inept' over police pay deal

A LABOUR MP has accused Home Secretary Jacqui Smith of "stupidity" over the police pay row, ***writes Phil Reilly***.





VIEWS: Jacqui Smith and Gwyn Prosser

Gwyn Prosser, a member of the influential Home Affairs Committee, was speaking in the wake of a vote of no confidence in Miss Smith on Wednesday by the Police Federation.

The body, which represents rank and file officers, is furious with the Home Secretary for refusing to backdate an independently arbitrated pay deal to September.

This has effectively reduced the 2.5 per cent pay rise to just 1.9 per cent.

Speaking after the vote, Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation, labelled the Home Secretary "completely and utterly untrustworthy".

The federation will ballot its 170,000 members in the New Year over whether or not to lobby for the right to strike.

An Act of Parliament currently prevents the police from taking any industrial action.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday, Mr Prosser, MP for Dover and Deal, said Miss Smith's actions did not show dishonesty, but "stupidity".

He said: "It is not logical or sensible or politically wise to treat [police officers] in this way. It was not an act of dishonesty, it was an act of political ineptitude.

"There has never been an incidence when any Home Secretary has ever not implemented the recommendation of the arbitration tribunal.

"In the past there has always been a fair level of natural trust between the federation and the Home Office. The danger is unless this move is corrected it could breach that trust."

A Home Office spokesman said the Government had a responsibility to ensure pay settlements were affordable and consistent with pay policy, including the maintenance of low inflation.



Jobs to go as homes close

MORE than 80 social workers face redundancy after the closure of five care homes for the long-term mentally ill in Medway and Swale.

The 24 residents will no longer be cared for in the homes when they are closed in October 2008.

NHS chiefs reported concerns over the quality of care received by the residents.

Medway Council, which employs the 84 staff members who care for the residents, said it was consulting with the carers and their union Unison about their future.

Amanda Rogers, the council's assistant director for adult services, said: "It's important that we all remember it's the needs of service users which must always be our top priority."

Sea deaths not manslaughter

A P&O officer has been cleared of the manslaughter of three men who died when their yacht sank in the Channel.

Michael Hubble, 62, from Capel-le-Ferne near Folkestone, was the officer of the watch aboard the Pride of Bilbao when it was alleged the ferry struck the yacht on August 21 last year.

Londoners James Meaby and Rupert Saunders and Jason Downer, from Thanet, died from a combination of drowning and hypothermia after the yacht sank near the Isle of Wight.

After a six-week trial at Winchester Crown Court, Hubble was cleared of three charges of manslaughter.

He still faces separate charges under the Merchant Shipping Act.

Livery scoops green award

AN organic horse livery yard has been named as Kent's most environmentally friendly business.

The Stone Circle Livery in Woodchurch, which is the first in the UK to be fully organic, has scooped this year's Kent Environment Business of the Year award.

As well as encouraging clients and other equine businesses to go organic, the family-owned business has also created new habitat and woodland and has restored ponds and recreated wild flower meadows not widely seen in the UK since medieval times.

A KCC spokesman said: "All businesses should take this example on board."

Canterbury premiers photographic exhibition of ballet legends



SONG BIRD: Opera singer Maria Callas (left) as Violetta with Cesare Valletti as Alfredo in La Traviata 1957-58

Picture perfect

Pictures: ROGER WOOD



PREVIOUSLY unseen images of Royal Opera House singers and dancers are currently on show at Canterbury's museum, ***writes Nick Ames***.

They include unique shots of rehearsals involving legends such as Margot Fonteyn and Maria Callas as well as costumes worn by Rudolf Nureyev.

There is also a recreation of Fonteyn's dressing room with her original table and practice clothes.

The photographs are the work of Roger Wood who lived in Canterbury and Deal and was the favourite photographer of stars of the opera in the 1950s and 60s.

Opening the exhibition this week was another legend of the stage, Dame Beryl Grey who is now aged 80.

She was photographed by Mr Wood when she was prima ballerina at the company.

Such fun

Dame Beryl told Kent on Sunday: "We walked up the backstairs together and we were up in the flys (the area where scenery is kept). It was lovely. It was such fun.

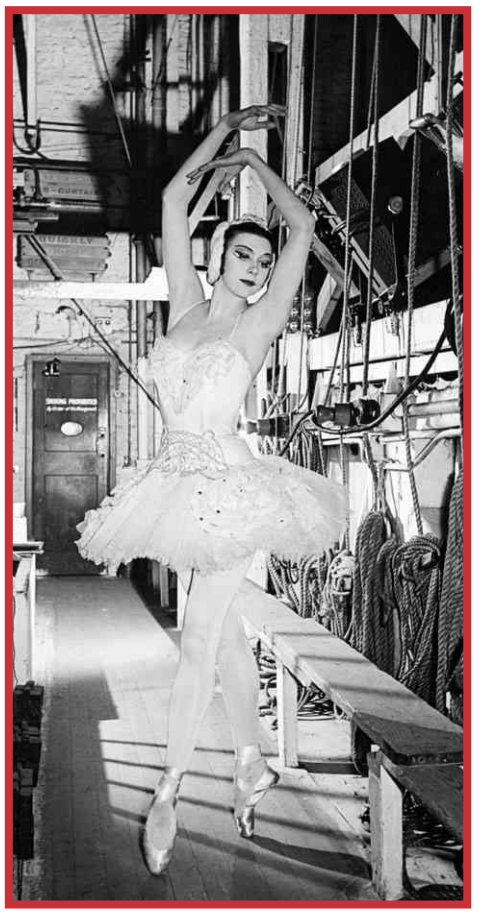
"He was very good at taking action pictures and he captured exactly the right feeling of the moment. He captured me in Swan Lake – my favourite role."

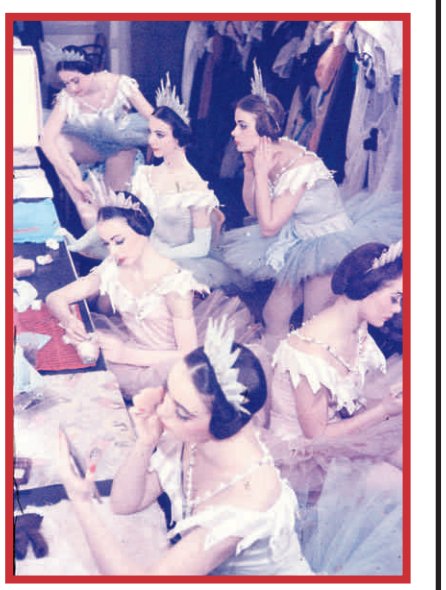
Mr Wood bequeathed his collection of photographs to the Royal Opera House collections just before his death two years ago.

He lived in Canterbury for the last 10 years of his life after previously being a resident of Deal.

Janice McGuinness, head of culture at Canterbury City Council, said: "The exhibition is a magical Christmas treat for anyone who loves ballet, opera, photographs or costumes. It's wonderful for Canterbury to premier the showing of these important photographs."

The exhibition runs until February 9.





CAUGHT ON CAMERA: Dame Margot Fonteyn (above) takes a curtain call as Cinderella in 1949; The corps de ballet (below) backstage in their dressing room in costume for Cinderella 1958-59; Dame Beryl Grey (left) in costume for Le Lac des Cygnes backstage on the fly floor at the Royal Opera House in 1951

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Kent's coast would bear brunt of new energy plan

DOZENS of offshore wind turbines could be built around Kent's coastline after the Government announced new energy plans.

Business Secretary John Hutton said he wanted to see up to 7,000 constructed in UK waters by the year 2020.

That could spell more than two offshore turbines for every mile of the UK's coastline.

Kent's coastline covers more miles than any other English county so would take a large number of the turbines.

Revealing the proposal, Mr Hutton accepted "it is going to change our coastline", but said climate change had to be addressed.

The Government wants a fifth of Britain's energy to come from renewable sources by the year 2020.

Mr Hutton said Britain must become more self-sufficient.

"I do not want in 20 years' time to find that whether the lights go on in the morning is down to some foreign government or someone else."

The minister confirmed that 7,000 turbines would be needed to generate the 33 gigawatts of energy necessary to meet government targets.

"Offshore wind is a major untapped resource for us," he added.

"It is going to change our coastline, yes for sure. There is no way of making that shift to a low carbon technology without there being change and without that change being visible and evident to people.

"We've got a choice as a country whether we rise to the challenge… or stick our head in the sand and hope climate change goes away.

"It is not going to go away."

Nick Rau, of Friends of the Earth, said: "We are delighted the Government is getting serious about the potential for offshore wind, which could generate 25 per cent of the UK's electricity by 2020."

There are currently plans to set up the world's largest offshore wind farm in the world, in the Thames Estuary off the north Kent coast. London Array's 341 wind turbines would provide one gigawatt of energy.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Savings must be made or council tax may increase

By **JAMIE McGINNES**
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

THE leader of the county council has warned that "significant savings" will be needed to keep next year's council tax hike below five per cent – despite a rise in funding from central government.

Cllr Paul Carter said the increase in money provided by the Government for council services over the next three years is below the rate of inflation, as measured by the Retail Price Index.

Pressures on KCC's £2 billion budget next year, he said, include £23 million for pay and price increases, £12m for increased demands such as the growing numbers of elderly and people with disabilities and about £9m for legislative requirements, including a rise in landfill tax.

KCC's grant for council services other than schools is up £9.2m to £259m for 2008-9.

But the Labour group at KCC said that the rise in government funding was above the rate of consumer price inflation.

Cllr Carter said: "The overall three-year settlement for KCC is better than we initially predicted, but is still a below-inflation increase for next year.

"Kent will also receive below inflationary increases in the second and third years, which is likely to lead to further difficult financial decisions having to be made."

Cllr Carter added: "We have lobbied government many times in the last two years to change the way investment in our schools, roads and other long-term improvements have been under-funded.

"KCC will still have to make some difficult decisions in the New Year as to where savings have to be made.

"The bottom line is that we are spending Kent taxpayers' money. As always, our primary motivation is to do this in the interests of the people of Kent."

However, the Labour group on KCC said that funding for schools for the next three years will increase between 3.6 per cent and 4.9 per cent per year, while for other services it will rise between 3.2 per cent and 3.7 per cent a year.

Cllr Derek Smyth, KCC Labour's deputy leader and finance spokesman, said: "After months of whingeing that disaster lay ahead, the Tories are now having to adjust to the reality that they have received a good settlement for Kent.

"There will be no excuse for excessive increases in council tax this year."

KENT County Council will soon advertise for a new head of communications, KoS understands.

The high-powered position is up for grabs after long-serving press chief Gerry Moore announced his intention to stand down. Mr Moore, a respected ex-journalist, leaves next Friday and it is understood that discussions are already underway about the new role.

In the meantime, Tanya Oliver has been appointed interim head of communications. Ms Oliver – the architect of the controversial Kent TV service – is close to Peter Gilroy, the chief executive, and used to be his staff officer when he was director of social services.

KCC leader Paul Carter has appointed his own press and policy officer, Natalie Yost. Ms Yost is a former KCC staffer who was a manager in Medway council's communications department.

AN 18-year-old man has been given a police caution after he indecently exposed himself to a roomful of teenagers. He flashed at the window of a classroom where 16-year-old students were being taught at Canterbury College.

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Turkey, the old-fashioned way

Kent farm's traditional methods a world away from bird factory 'hell'



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By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

TRADITIONAL Christmas turkeys have been produced at Appledore in the same way for the past 60 years.

Bronze free-range birds roam around the Romney Marsh farm and the barn-reared white turkeys are kept in airy, spacious conditions. Both are allowed to mature before meeting their end.

The turkeys at Priory Farm could be the lucky ones because, according to an animal welfare charity, the life of the average supermarket-bought bird is "a vision of hell".

Clive Wreathall runs the Kent farm, which also includes 2,000 acres of arable land growing wheat, oilseed rape, onions and peas, with his brother Andrew.

Matured

He said: "It is a very old-fashioned method. We are growing traditional birds very slowly – it is the same way it was done more than 50 years ago.

"It means they taste better. They are plucked and hung like game. We delay making them oven ready so the meat is matured.

"Eating them is a completely different experience."

Mr Wreathall said the birds were slaughtered on site and were not given any antibiotics, additives or growth promoters.

This year the farmers will sell around 18,000 birds, which is up 500 from last year, he said.

Asked whether he thought people were beginning to care more about whether their meat had been ethically treated, he said: "Cruel is very subjective because no one produces in a cruel way now because of all the regulations.



THE GOOD LIFE: Clive Wreathall (right) and brother Andrew with the well-kept turkeys at Priory Farm

"It is just that our particular way is a low intensive and animal-friendly system.

"There are those who place a greater importance on that than others. Consumers have the option – we buy what we want."

Mr Wreathall said the farm had nothing to hide and that prospective customers were welcome to have a look at the birds.

He added: "We chose this way [to rear the birds] because we like it and our family has been doing it for the past 60 years."

However, 90 per cent of the 10 million turkeys eaten this Christmas will have been produced in factory farms, according to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta).

Marie-Claire Macintosh, who is a campaigns coordinator for Peta in the UK, said: "It is ruthless – the conditions are horrendous.

"You are looking at about 25,000 birds in a windowless shed because they are farmed so intensively to maximise production. Everything is about economics.

"They are kept in near darkness to avoid outbreaks of aggression which is caused by the disgusting conditions in which they are kept."

She said the birds suffered from a long list of health problems because of the way they were kept. These included burns caused by the animals having to stand in their own faeces.

The scorch marks could often be seen on the feet of the turkeys on supermarket shelves, she said.

The lobby group said there were not enough regulations to protect turkeys.

It quoted an industry recommendation stating that three birds could be kept in the space of a small coffee table.

Miss Macintosh said factory-reared birds were not allowed to grow up and were given a number of drugs, antibiotics and growth hormones to ensure consumers had large turkeys. "It really is a vision of hell," she said.

According to Peta, the death the birds faced did not put them out of their misery quickly.

The hugely overweight birds are hung upside-down by shackles, for up to three minutes and were then given an electric shock to knock them out.

But Miss Macintosh said she had seen footage showing that many remained conscious before their throats were cut.

For PETA, there is no such thing as cruelty-free meat. Miss Macintosh said consumers needed to be more aware of where the meat they eat comes from and how the animals are treated.

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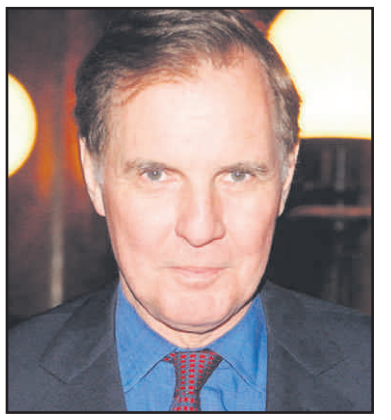


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Aitken's advice for fraudster



SYMPATHETIC: Jonathan Aitken offered advice to Conrad Black

DISGRACED former Tory minister, Jonathan Aitken, has given advice to Conrad Black, the former owner of the Daily Telegraph who has been jailed for six-and-a-half years.

Mr Aitken, who served seven months in prison for perjury, spoke out after the press baron was sentenced in a Chicago courtroom for fraud and obstructing justice.

Mr Aitken, the former MP for South Thanet, said: "I am a Conrad supporter and sympathiser. I think he will survive well in prison.

"My only advice to him would be to blend into the landscape of prison and to go with the flow of it.

"He may have to make a self-transformation from a tall poppy into a shrinking violet to achieve this. But he will do it because he will soon find that all men are equal in a prison uniform.

"The shared misery can actually be a surprisingly interesting and even positive experience."

Mr Aitken is now advising the Conservative Party on prison reform.

He said Black's sentence was too long.

"These offences would carry a much lower tariff in the United Kingdom and Europe," he told the Telegraph. "If I had been on the jury I would have voted to acquit him anyway."

Black, who is married to Barbara Amiel, had originally faced life in jail but some charges were dropped during the trial and he was cleared of racketeering.



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Rock star's tribute to murdered Alaneme

Band welcome news of conviction

EXCLUSIVE

By **JAMIE McGINNES**
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

HIS DEATH inspired lyrics to one of a top band's most poignant songs.

Kele Okereke, 26, singer with the indie rock group Bloc Party, regarded Christopher Alaneme as a cousin.

Their mothers, who were both Nigerian, were good friends living in London.

Mr Alaneme, 18, moved to Sheerness seeking a better life – but was stabbed to death there in April 2006.

Bloc Party's song, Where is Home? begins at the teenager's funeral: "After the funeral breaking cola nuts; We sit and reminisce about the past; And in her voice only sadness; Her only son taken from her."

The group this week welcomed the news that Peter Connolly, of south-east London, had been found guilty of Mr Alaneme's murder.

A judge at Maidstone Crown Court told him he would serve a minimum of 15 years in prison.

A Bloc Party spokesman told this newspaper: "Of course we are very happy to hear that the man who killed Christopher has been caught and put in jail.

"It was a shocking and disgusting attack and it is good that justice has been done.

"However, I am sure that does not make up for the terrible loss of Christopher to his friends and family, Kele included of course."

In a previous interview, Okereke claimed Mr Alaneme's murder and events like the July 7 London bombings "galvanised [his] mindset", and caused him to make lyrics on the band's second album, A Weekend in the City, "dark, bigger and quite abrasive".

At court on Monday, Connolly, a 31-year-old painter and decorator, of Carisbrooke Gardens, Peckham, was also found guilty of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm to another man, Mark Davies.

He received a sentence of 10 years for the count of wounding to run concurrently with his murder term.







TRAGEDY: Bloc Party's Kele Okereke (second from left) sings about the funeral of Christopher Alaneme (top right) in Where is Home? This week, Peter Connolly (below right) was jailed for murdering the teenager

On sentencing, Judge Mr Justice Goldring told Connolly: "From the beginning you have not shown the slightest remorse. You sought to mislead the police."

The jury heard how Connolly, who had been visiting Sheerness for the weekend, took drugs and drank heavily, before setting out into Sheerness town centre, carrying the knife used to kill Alaneme and severely injure Mr Davies.

Within minutes of meeting the group of men, Mr Alaneme was stabbed. Mr Davies was sitting outside Bar One when he saw the commotion across the street. He was stabbed five times, resulting in severe injuries.

Superintendent Steve Corbishley, of Kent Police, said: "This is a tragic case and I would like to express my deepest sympathies for Christopher's family and his friends in Sheerness, whose lives have been changed forever by this senseless crime.

"Although this type of crime is a rare occurrence, the weight of support we received from the local community is indicative of the shockwave that this case created, with people appalled by the sheer callous nature of the way the crime was committed."

Andrew Giblin, 28, a bank worker of Bromyard House, Commercial Way, in Peckham, and Terence Beaney, 25, a plasterer of Rideout Street, Woolwich, south-east London, were both acquitted of all charges.

Earlier in the trial, the judge ordered the jury to return a not guilty verdict regarding Sean Duhig, 23, and Gerry Duhig, 27, both plasterers from Melbury Drive, in Camberwell, who had also been standing trial for the murder of Mr Alaneme.

Bloc Party's 2005 debut record Silent Alarm went platinum in the UK, reaching number three in the album charts and sold more than 350,000 copies in North America.

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Backchat

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I didn't know that!

Latest Research from the University of Columbia found that impacts at only 11mph cause harm to your body.

Studies also show that the effects of car accidents do not often raise themselves until years later.

One of the saddest things happened in my practice recently that now motivates me to share this important message with you. A lady aged 36 was involved in a car accident 11 years ago, travelling at 30mph. She thought she was lucky at the time, walking away unscathed with no obvious injuries. The day after the accident she did experience a little neck stiffness and so went to her local doctor. She was told, "you have mild whiplash", to go home and if it got any worse, to just pop a couple of anti-inflammatories. So that is what she did.

Just 3 weeks ago (11 years later), that once fit and healthy young lady was referred to my practice by another doctor. She had been suffering constant headaches, migraines, weakness in her arm and numbness in one hand.

After a thorough assessment and spinal x-rays, it was discovered she had severe damage in her neck, so much so that it was too late…nothing could be done. Unfortunately, she put off a spinal check for too long. And even more regrettable was the fact she had not been referred for proper spinal care years ago immediately after her accident.

"Many people don't know how a small impact can cause serious problems in the future"

This lady's tragic situation is not unique to her, and so, this has prompted me to explain something extremely important with you. Have you ever been involved in a car accident? Even if you were a passenger…don't be misled by the minimal damage to the car. Your body reacts much differently than glass, plastic and metal. Chances are you have incurred misalignment of the spine.

The problem in diagnosing such spinal problems is that you can't often feel them, and so progressively, the problem manifests itself causing spinal decay, arthritis, degeneration – damage.

In the past, you may have had a blood pressure check, pulse or temperature check, and even a urine and blood test. When was the last time you had a spinal health evaluation to check and ensure your spine (which protects your spinal cord and nervous system) isn't putting pressure on your nerves silently and creating health problems now and for your future?

Many people don't know how a small impact can cause serious problems in the future.

Don't wait until it's too late. The only way to find out whether previous trauma, car accident or sports injury has created a problem is to have a spinal check up. If you have been putting this off, it is now time to do something about it.

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Jobs growth

MORE jobs were created in the South East in November than any other month for nearly 10 years, according to research.

The state of business in the region has been assessed in a new report commissioned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, which also shows the South East was one of the best performing business sectors in the country.

However, the report also showed the local economy was expanding at its slowest rate for two years.

Ross Walker, an economist at the bank, said: "The local labour market remains buoyant, with jobs being created at the strongest pace for almost 10 years and faster than elsewhere in the UK. Growth may ease further around the turn of the year, as credit conditions are still tight and confidence is lower than in mid-year."

• ***For more business news, turn to p85.***



Getting on board

THANET'S Revolution Skatepark features in a new film made for our internet channel, yourkenttv.co.uk. KOS Media visited the popular park to find out about its new indoor and outdoor facilities and to interview the owner Dan Chapman. Mr Chapman discusses his plans for the future. Revolution, regarded as one of the best of its kind in Britain, celebrates its 10th anniversary next year. To watch the film, visit www.yourkenttv.co.uk, and search for Revolution.



HUSKY RIDE: Hannah Forrester met Father Christmas in Lapland

Christmas wish for cancer girl

By **PHIL.REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

A SERIOUSLY ill little girl had her Christmas wish granted when she was whisked away to meet Father Christmas.

Hannah Forrester, six, from Beckenham, suffers from T Cell leukaemia, a rare cancer that attacks the immune system.

She has been undergoing gruelling treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital, but last weekend Hannah, her brother Daniel, seven, and her parents joined 11 other families for a trip to Lapland.

The trip was courtesy of the Starlight Children's Foundation, which grants wishes of seriously ill children.

Hannah spent three action-packed days taking sleigh rides, building snowmen, going on a fast and furious husky ride, feeding carrots to reindeer and meeting Father Christmas.

Starlight's Nichola McBryde, who organised the trip, said: "It has been a privilege granting Hannah's wish.

"I actually went with the families to Lapland and to see Hannah's face light up when he met Santa really goes to show how much Starlight wishes lift the children's spirits and brightens up their families' lives too.

"Granting a wish does really help them in their recovery."

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Now the C diff hospital loses patients' data

PERSONAL data about 244 cancer patients has been lost by a blundering Kent NHS trust.

A memory stick containing confidential and unencrypted data on the patients has gone missing at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

The trust was at the centre of a superbug outbreak that claimed the lives of 90 patients.

Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, said: "People need to be able to trust our hospitals. I am extremely concerned for my constituents who, just when they are going through the pain and anxiety of serious illness, now have the additional worry of what has happened to confidential information concerning them."

Mr Clark said the trust had done the right thing in contacting the patients involved and calling in the police to investigate the loss or theft of the information.

He said: "It beggars belief that confidential patient data was put on a memory stick unencrypted and without password protection and sent around a hospital so soon after the scandal about the loss of child benefit data dominated the national news.

"Given the events of the last few weeks, how could anyone be unaware of the vital importance of keeping confidential data safe and secure?

"It points to a culture of carelessness in the management of information that is completely unacceptable."

Mr Clark said the incident showed that basic standards that patients should be able to take for granted were not being met by the trust.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Concern

The trust said the stick went missing from the Peggy Wood Breast Care Centre in Maidstone at the end of October.

Staff spent more than a month searching the centre but when they were still unable to find the stick patients were told last weekend.

Deputy medical director Professor Roger James said: "We are very sorry about the loss of this information and any concern it may cause to any of the patients.

"We wrote to them all last Friday and followed that up with a telephone call over the weekend, and on Monday and Tuesday, so that we would be able to explain the situation fully and answer any of the patients' questions. A few were concerned that their medical notes might be missing and we were able to reassure them that this was not the case."

The trust said the stick contained the patient's name, date of birth and in some cases a few clinical details.

It did not include patients' addresses or details of their hospital consultant or GP.

Prof James said staff believed the stick might still turn up at the centre.

Meanwhile, healthcare inspectors have been carrying out follow-up checks at the trust after a damning watchdog's report into two outbreaks of Clostridium difficile.

A spokeswoman for the Healthcare Commission said the visit was to look into how the report's recommendations were being carried out.

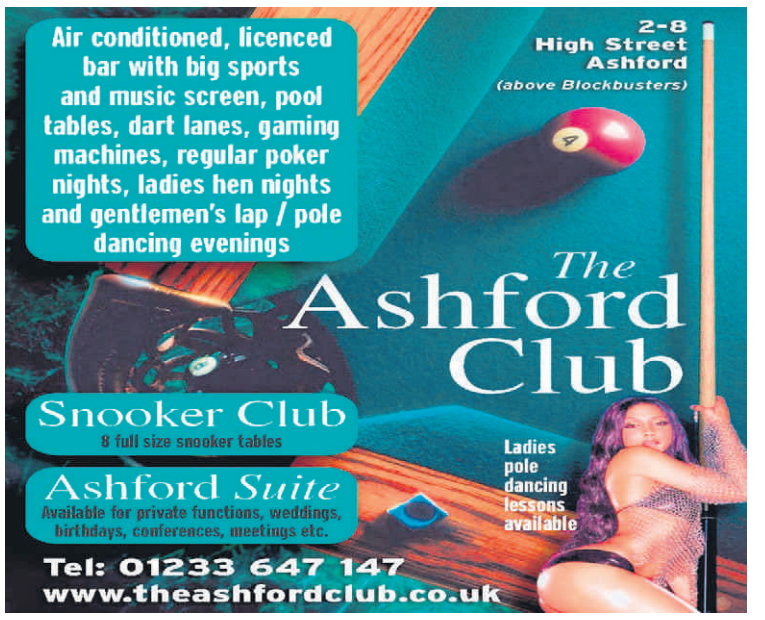
Glenn Douglas, the trust's chief executive, said infection levels of both C diff and MRSA at the trust's hospitals were falling.

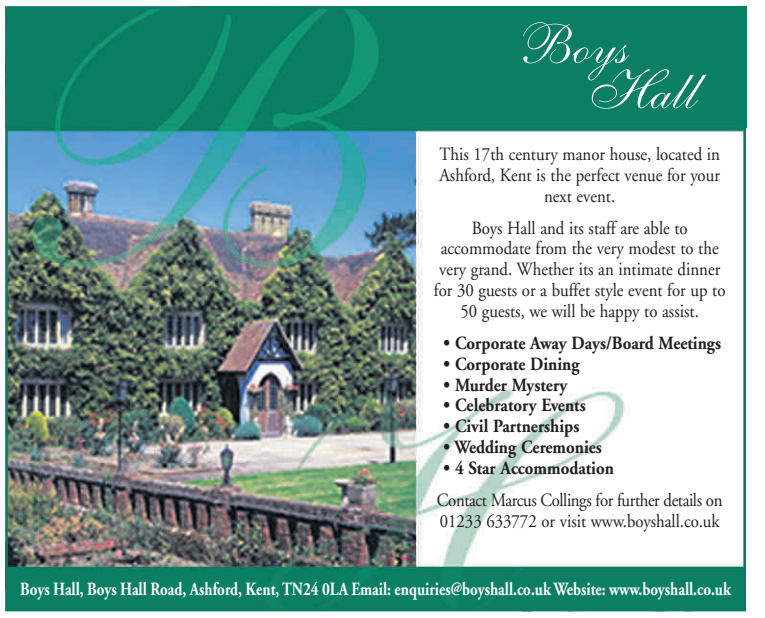
Ineffective infection control methods and poor management were blamed for the outbreaks, the report stated.

On Friday, the Government announced plans to fine hospitals that fail to meet superbug targets.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

A STUDENT has appeared in court charged with the murder of a doctor found stabbed to death in her car in August. David Quartey, 21, from Humber Road in Dartford, pleaded not guilty at Maidstone Crown Court on Thursday to the murder of paediatrician Victoria Anyetei. The 54-year-old Ghanaian was found in her car on the driveway of her home in Teynham Road, Dartford on August 14. She worked at St Thomas' Hospital in London. Quartey, who was originally charged on September 29, will now stand trial. It is scheduled for Maidstone Crown Court on July 14 next year.







Archbishop talks about gay clergy, abortion... and the Simpsons



INTERVIEW: Dr Rowan Williams said he has 'no problem' with celibate gay clergy

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has given his opinions on gay clergymen, abortion and The Simpsons to a trio of teenage journalists.

Dr Rowan Williams told the reporters from Kent-based Oi! Magazine, published by the Marlowe Academy, that gay clergy who act on their urges are acting against the Bible.

Dr Williams said: "I have no problem with gay clergy who aren't in relationships, although there are savage arguments about the issue.

"Our jobs mean we have to adhere to the Bible – gay clergy who don't act upon their sexual preferences do, clergy in practicing homosexual relationships don't.

"This major question doesn't have a quick-fix solution and will be debated for years to come."

Dr Williams added that he had questions as to whether gay couples can provide the same stability for children as married couples.

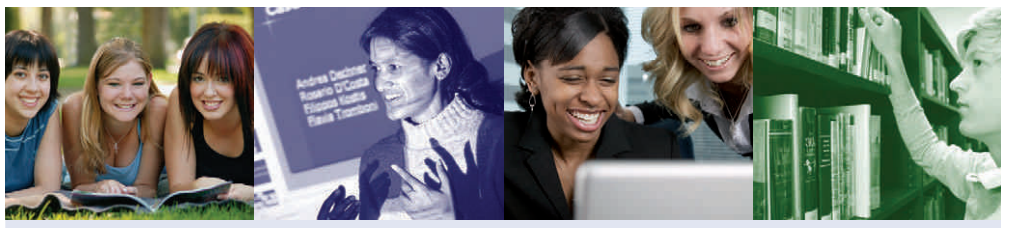
He said: "I have seen one fantastic example of same sex parenting first hand and I suppose stability is another key consideration."

One of the interviewers, 17-year-old Georgie Gothard, revealed to the archbishop that she was 12 weeks pregnant and was not sure if she would keep the baby.

Dr Williams said he could never advise anyone to have an abortion, arguing that "a child is a gift from God and you wouldn't give a gift back – would you?"

Dr Williams also admitted to the trio that his teenage daughter thinks he is "every kind of idiot there is", that he watches The Simpsons before his evening appointments and that he expected the majority of priests to be women by 2025.

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Ashford Designer Outlet has more than 80 stores and is located just off junction 10 of the M20,

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Chapelle Jewellery Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

Closing date is December 21, 2007.

QUESTION: Savings of over £1,000 are available on which collection of jewellery?

Kent Highway Services

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to page **16**.

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **73**.

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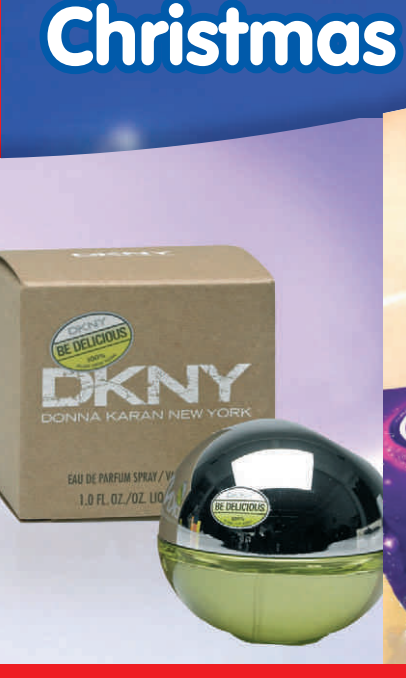
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Return of the noble chafer

Orchard survey uncovers beetle last seen 60 years ago

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A RARE and endangered beetle has been found in Kent for the first time in nearly 60 years.

The noble chafer beetle (Gnorimus nobilis) is facing extinction because its natural habitat – traditional orchards – is under threat.

The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) made the important find during a survey of traditional orchards in the county as part of a project it has been running for two years.

It was discovered in an orchard next to a housing estate in Swale – the first sighting of the beetle since 1948.

Laura Hurt, conservation project coordinator for PTES, said: "These traditional orchards are actually dying out. They are not commercially viable any more. There is huge pressure, especially in Kent, to build homes on these patches of land on the edge of towns where the orchards are often found."



Picture: MATT SMITH

NOBLE CHAFER FACTS:

- Noble chafers are just under an inch long
- The beetle has a metallic bronze and green body
- Female noble chafers lay up to 35 eggs, which hatch after about two weeks.
- The larva feeds on rotting wood for around two years before emerging as adult beetles. They live for four to six weeks.
- Noble chafers have been seen in fruit-growing areas of the UK, including Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

A traditional orchard farmer, as opposed to a commercial one, does not use pesticides and fertilisers.

Across the UK traditionally managed orchards have declined by nearly 60 per cent since the 1950s.

PTES said orchards are often cleared to make way for more commercially viable land such as arable or grassland, or redeveloped as 'modern' orchards compatible with more intensive farming techniques.

It is not known how many of the beetles are left in the UK, but Miss Hurt said if traditional orchards continue to be lost at the rate they are now then the insects could die out completely.

The noble chafer is currently classified as 'vulnerable' throughout the country.

This means the species faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild and it has been listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan since 1999.

Anita Burrough, orchard project officer at PTES, said: "This exciting new discovery is very important. It gives us hope the beetle will be found in other old orchards in Kent as well as in other counties where suitable orchard habitat is present."

She said the orchards also provide a home to more than 1,800 species, which is why it is important to maintain and preserve them.

Cllr John Disney, cabinet member for the environment at Swale Borough Council, said: "This is an interesting, unique development and the noble chafer should be protected and celebrated."

He said the council had no plans to develop the land where the beetle was found and that it would continue as a community orchard.

Anonymous tip-off leads to capture of cat smuggler

A POSSIBLE rabies outbreak was averted after a woman smuggling cats into Kent was caught.

Jennifer Briggs, from Preston, was stopped by Port of Dover Police trying to smuggle three pedigree cats into the country by car. The discovery followed an anonymous tip-off.

One Sphynx cat was found to have the microchip of another taped inside its collar and two Kahona cats were hidden in the vehicle and had not had the necessary rabies tests and checks before travelling.

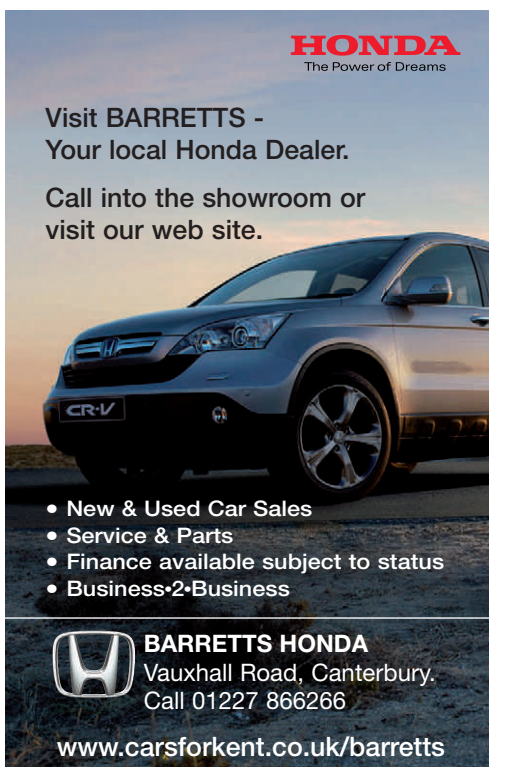
Briggs, 39, was found guilty at Canterbury Crown Court of three charges of knowingly evading prohibitions set up under the 1974 Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and other Mammals) Order.

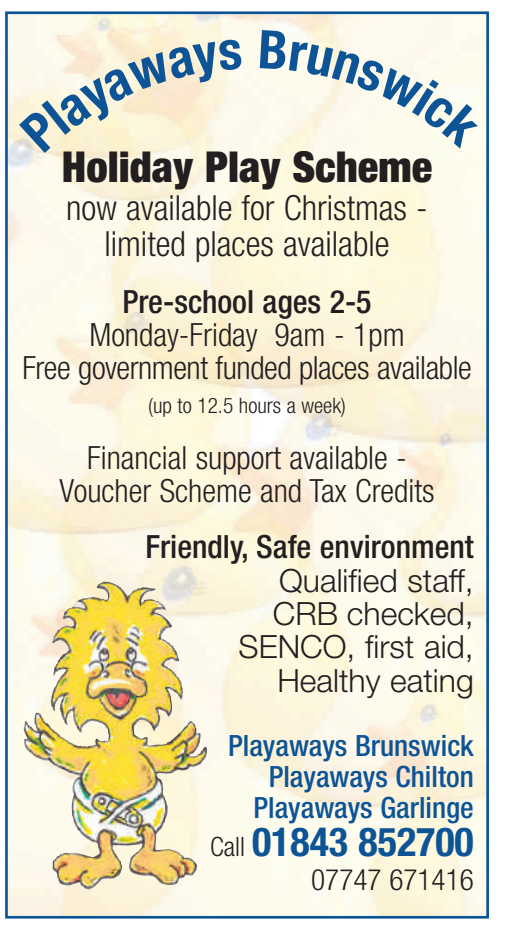
She was fined £2,250 and £100 in court costs.

Mike Hill, Kent County Council cabinet member for community services, said: "This successful court case highlights how information from the public and partnership working means that those who threaten the safety of residents and other animals can be detected and prosecuted.

"We will all continue to work together to try to reduce the risk of these types of diseases entering the UK via the Kent ports."









‘Development agency has walked the walk’

MP’s staunch support for under-fire quango

By **JAMIE McGINNES**
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

A MINISTER has given his backing to the under-fire South East England Development Agency.

Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw, who is Minister for the South East, dismissed claims that the quango was a costly talking shop that had wasted public money.

In a recent article, political commentator and journalist Leo McKinstry claimed Seeda, which spent £195 million last year, had a “scandalous contempt for the public purse”.

But Mr Shaw highlighted the outcome of a November 2006 report by public spending watchdog, the National Audit Office, that concluded Seeda was “performing strongly” overall.

“I would look at the National Audit Office’s assessment of them,” he said.

“I would think would be a little more objective than this chap.

“The NAO has said they are performing strongly. When I speak to businesses, they are supportive of the role of the development agency.”



SUPPORTIVE: MP Jonathan Shaw

Mr Shaw said business leaders liked the way Seeda was able to work outside of local council boundaries.

“We have to operate on a regional basis,” he added.

“Look at the development in my own patch in Chatham – it has supported huge development on Rochester Riverside, on Chatham Dockyard.

“It’s not just a case of talking – [Seeda] has walked it as well and are delivering it on the ground. The response I get back from people is positive.”

The 2006 report by the NAO gave Seeda 21 out of a maximum 24 points for its work. It said Seeda had “a highly impressive record of achievement on a small budget”.

Seeda has been under mounting pressure in the last few weeks to be more open and accountable about its work after it emerged that its three-day-a-week chairman, James Braithwaite, spent more than £51,000 on taxis and chauffeur-driven cars last year.

In his article for The Spectator magazine, Mr McKinstry described Mr Braithwaite’s itinerary for September and November as “the predictable round of self-serving dinners and meetings, with other well-rewarded public officials.”

He even claimed that the public would have been better served if the chairman had instead stayed at home to watch TV for the two months.

This newspaper requested an interview with Seeda’s chief executive Pam Alexander about the criticisms, but the request was declined because she was said to be too busy.

News updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Rail travel ‘too expensive’

THE vast majority of people believe rail fares are too expensive, a survey by our website, kentnews.co.uk, has revealed.

Ninety-five per cent said we pay too much for rail travel, compared to just five per cent who said tickets are reasonably priced.

The poll came after Southeastern announced that regulated fares, such as season tickets, would go up by an average of 6.8 per cent.

The company has increased unregulated fares, such as cheap day returns, by 4.8 per cent.

Thirty-nine people took part in our poll. Look out for new surveys on our site.

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Bike It



It's official – cycling is cool! That's certainly the opinion of increasing numbers of school children in Ashford, who are finding out how much fun cycling to school can be with the help of Kent Highway Services and the Bike It project managed by sustainable transport charity Sustrans.

Since March this year, we've been supporting Simon Allum, a Bike It Officer who works with staff and children at 12 schools in Ashford to encourage them to cycle to school. Simon devises a whole programme of biking events that are tailored to the school, and are a great addition to the cycle training that Kent Highway Services road safety team already offers.

The emphasis is obviously on safety, so the Bike It programme offers Dr Bike sessions to check the roadworthiness of cycles, and plotting safe cycling routes has formed the basis of classroom activities. Parents are encouraged to join in too by cycling to school with their children and enjoying a bike breakfast as a reward!

We also know that image is everything and will play an important part in the success of this project, so there are competitions to 'bling your bike' and plans to work with a major beauty products manufacturer to help teenage girls ride with style!

The scheme certainly seems to be proving popular and we're watching it carefully as there is a possibility that another Bike It officer could be employed elsewhere in Kent in the near future. There is evidence of the scheme's success across the country, with participating schools in UK towns and cities achieving cycling levels ten times the national average – bucking the trend in declining numbers of children cycling to school.

We are also hoping to set up a British Cycling affiliated Junior Cycling Club in the Ashford area, but we need your help to do it.

Bike It is a nationwide scheme, managed by Sustrans. Nationally the project is funded by Cycling England and the cycle industry, locally Bike It is supported by Kent Highways Services.

If you want to get involved, you can find out more by emailing simon.allum@sustrans.org.uk To find out more about cycling in Kent, please visit our wesite at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

Considerate contractors

Kent and Medway has a network of almost 6,000 miles of highway. Each year, Kent Highway Services and the utility companies carry out about 65,000 jobs on our roads.

With so many works going on, it's important that a set of standards is in place to ensure that works are carried out considerately with minimum disruption to you. That's where the Considerate Contractor scheme comes in.

We recognise that problems between contractors and highway users can be significantly reduced by careful planning and safer working practices. So the scheme aims to reward high-performing contractors who take the consideration of other highway users into account when they're working.

We judge the construction site conditions against a code of good practice, which looks at cleanliness, considerate behaviours, co-operation and care. We want to improve standards, give constructive feedback to continue improvement and most importantly, ensure that anyone using the affected footpath or highway will understand what is happening.

An important part of this scheme is feedback from the public and you can comment on the conditions of sites by contacting Kent Highway Services on **08458 247 800.**

The national Considerate Contractor Schemes are now recognised by the construction industry and they are also being supported by the Tidy Britain Group and the Health and Safety Executive. The scheme is good news for anyone who uses Kent's highways and footpaths and we'll keep working to raise the standards even further.



We will be reporting on award winners to encourage all contractors who work on the highway to achieve the standards expected by the road users in Kent.

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

Plus Bus gives more!

If you travel by train into or around Kent, you may be buying too many tickets! Since May 2007, passengers have been able to buy a new type of ticket called Plus Bus, which gives all-in-one bus and train journeys.

The Plus Bus ticket provides unlimited travel on bus services at the start and finish of your train journey, within a recognised area. It's cheaper than buying a bus and train ticket separately and if you commute by bus to and from the station, you can buy season tickets for seven days, one month, three months or a year.

Plus Bus isn't just handy during the week though – with a season ticket you can travel as much as you like during evenings and weekends too.

The scheme is currently available at 22 stations across Kent including all Thanet stations, Dover, Canterbury, Folkestone, Ashford, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. Plus Bus is already proving popular and Maidstone and Gravesend stations will be added to the list early next year.

If you want to find out more about Plus Bus in Kent, you can visit **www.kent.gov.uk/highways**



Travel Update

Kent Highway Services

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

Tunbridge Wells

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
17/12/07	18/12/07	Rusthall Road, Tunbridge Wells	Road closure – resurfacing works
19/12/07	20/12/07	Megrims Hill, Sandhurst	Road closure – resurfacing works

Thanet

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
17/12/07	21/12/07	Royal Crescent, Ramsgate	Temporary traffic lights – new gas mains

Dartford

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
17/12/07	21/12/07	Heath Lane, Dartford	Road closure – traffic calming works

Sevenoaks

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
17/12/07	24/12/07	Four Elms Road, Edenbridge	Temporary traffic lights – new energy supply

Canterbury

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
17/12/07	18/1/08	Bonny Bush Hill, Bishopbourne	Temporary traffic lights – resurfacing works

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit **www.kent.gov.uk/travel**

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Lord Bruce-Lockhart on road to recovery

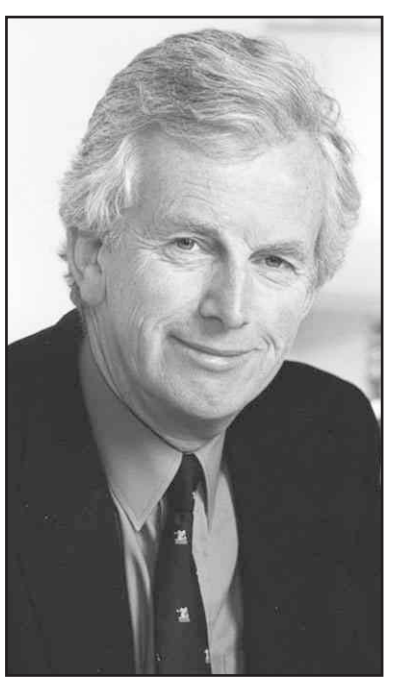
EXCLUSIVE

By **JAMIE McGINNES**
jamie.mcginnes@kosmedia.co.uk

FORMER county council leader Sandy Bruce-Lockhart is "feeling very positive" after successful operations to remove a cancerous tumour.

The 65-year-old has been out of hospital for three weeks and on Wednesday began chemotherapy treatment, which will continue until March.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart, who led KCC for eight years, told this newspaper: "I'm feeling very positive and immensely grateful for the fantastic support we have had."



FEELING BETTER: Former leader of KCC, Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, has had operations to remove cancerous tumours

Admiration

Once described as the "most powerful" Tory in the country, he is married to Tess and has three children.

A spokesman for KCC said: "All of us at Kent County Council are full of admiration for the way Sandy and family are dealing with his illness and his continued dedication to his many roles in the community.

"It is totally in character for him to be so positive and conscientious. We are all delighted his operations went well and he is getting stronger."

Last week, Lord Bruce-Lockhart made his first public appearance since having treatment for cancer.

He attended a public meeting at the Ramada Hotel in Hollingbourne over plans to build a giant freight terminal, Kent International Gateway, on open fields between Bearsted and junction eight of the M20 at Lenham.

At the meeting, Lord Bruce-Lockhart said he felt he had to attend to condemn the plans.

He said: "I totally oppose a proposal of this size on this site – it is 100 per cent in the wrong place.

"To build this site 25 miles from the Channel Tunnel in beautiful and wonderful greenfield countryside makes no sense. This land has to be protected at all cost."

Lord Bruce-Lockhart previously lived in Zimbabwe and Australia, before moving to Kent in the 1960s. He has two fruit farms in the county and lives in Headcorn, near Maidstone.

He became a county councillor for Maidstone Rural East in 1989 after chairing a rail committee in the Weald of Kent preservation society – protesting over the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

He was knighted in the New Year's Honours List in 2002, and was made a peer last year, given the title Baron Bruce-Lockhart, of The Weald in the County of Kent.

The former chairman of the Local Government Association, he was appointed chairman of English Heritage in August.

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To Delhi, with all

Charity celebrates 30 years of helping the 'poorest of the poor'

A VISIT to the tortuous, narrow and filthy streets of north-east Delhi makes one thing clear: the economic growth for which India is grabbing headlines around the world is nothing more than a rumour for the vast majority of the country's population, ***writes Jim Little.***

Amid the racket and pollution of this chaotic city of 14 million, vast and growing numbers of urban poor struggle for survival in conditions of poor sanitation and almost non-existent economic opportunity.

This deprived environment feels a million miles from the peaceful east Kent villages of Wye and Brook, yet a vital link exists thanks to a charity about to celebrate its 30th birthday.

Since 1978, the Wye and Brook India Trust (WBIT) has been raising funds for the Delhi Brotherhood Society, which runs schools, hostels, night shelters and a vocational training centre for 'the poorest of the poor' in India's capital.

On the rooftop of a hostel for homeless children in the Shahidnagar district, looking out over streets in which motorbikes threaded between bullock carts and stooped old men picked at mountains of rubbish on street corners, the Brotherhood's Harsh Obraio told me: "The problem of street children in Delhi is growing at an alarming rate. Typically they are from the countryside, and run away from home at a young age because of drunkenness or abuse in their families.

"They have seen an idealised image of the city on TV and in films, and they think life will be better for them here.

"The reality, of course, is that for a young person the streets of Delhi offer unbelievable hardship and danger.

"Here we provide them with a safe home and an education, the chance that one day they might take part in India's growing prosperity."

The three-storey hostel rang with laughter as a group of children ran in from cricket in the playground.



"The greatest thing we can do is give them back their childhood again," Mr Obraio said. "When you have lived on Delhi's streets at the age of five or six you have lost your innocence, to say the least. We hope they will all prosper in education and have long and happy lives, but whatever they do they are already heroes in my eyes, because they have survived."

'These children are all heroes just because they have survived'

Children living in the hostel are educated in a neighbouring building, the Deenabandhu School, which also teaches many young people born and raised in the surrounding area.

Principal Rajni Sharma pointed out that, without the school, "even the luckier of our pupils – those with parents and a roof over their heads – would probably be starting full-time work by the age of eight or nine, in workshops, factories and tea stalls, for instance".

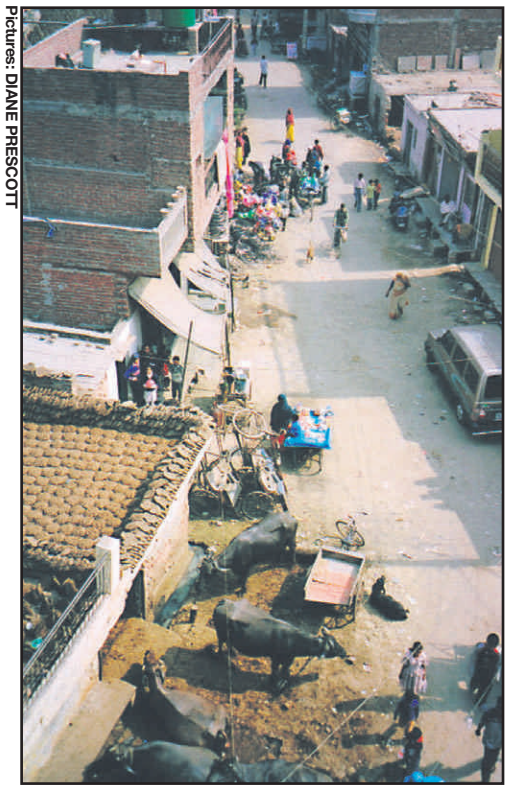
Her comments were echoed by Father Monodeep Daniel, who oversees the running of the Brotherhood's schools.

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love from Wye

Pictures: DIANE PRESCOTT



POVERTY: Children 'lose their innocence' living on the streets of the Indian capital

"It should be understood that the people who live in this part of Delhi are not only economically poor people," he said. "They are socially excluded 'untouchables'. Since antiquity, these people have been forced to live on the outskirts of life, away from the sight and touch of the upper castes. They migrate from farmland, but end up in the slums of India's cities."

In Shahidnagar the average family wage is equivalent to about 75p per day, and the ability of families to provide for themselves is all too frequently hit by early death – more than 20 per cent of children between four and 15 supported by WBIT have lost their father.

'The untouchables migrate from farmland but end up in the slums of India's cities'

The contribution of the Wye and Brook India Trust – currently nearly a quarter of the Brotherhood's revenue for its child-development programme – is crucial and increasing.

In 2007, £24,000 has been given by donors, churches and schools.

"The charity has helped provide education for more than 700 young people since its foundation by Canon David Marriott, the then Vicar of Wye, who initiated this involvement with the Delhi Brotherhood," said John Prescott, chairman of WBIT.

"We strive to make every pound as effective as possible, keeping administrative costs down to less than two per cent of income. Donors can make a general contribution or sponsor a child, and just £50 goes a long way towards paying for their books, uniform and share of a teacher's salary for a year.

"The contribution of WBIT to education is at the core of the Brotherhood's projects, which also include a helpline for young people, a night shelter for street children and a local daily newspaper. The Brotherhood plays a vital role in Delhi, helping those who are largely forgotten by society.

"At some point perhaps India might provide for all those who find themselves in desperate poverty," Mr Prescott concluded. "Until then, our help is sorely needed."

• To find out more, contact WBIT's sponsorship co-ordinator Sheila Child on 01233 812209 or email WandBIT@aol.com.

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Daniel found love of acting in Kent

HOLLYWOOD critics have awarded their top prize to a new film starring Daniel Day-Lewis, ***writes Peter Boyes***.

The oil-boom epic There Will Be Blood was chosen as 2007's best film by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, one of the first key groups to weigh in during the build-up to the Academy Awards.

Day-Lewis, a former Kent schoolboy, won best actor for his role as a California petroleum baron who clashes with his son and a local preacher in the early 1900s.

In an interview to promote the film, the 50-year-old actor spoke of his childhood, his early inspiration and the approach he takes to his acting.

In 1976, Day-Lewis, then 19, first saw Martin Scorsese's Taxi Driver, the story of an isolated Vietnam veteran in New York and his attempt to save a child prostitute.

"I saw Taxi Driver five or six times in the first week and I was astonished by its visceral beauty. I just kept going back – I didn't know America, but that was a glimpse of what America might be and I realised that, contrary to expectation, I wanted to tell American stories.

"Where I come from, it was a heresy to say you wanted to be in movies, let alone American movies. We were all encouraged to believe the classics of theatre were the fiery hoops through which you'd have to pass if you were going to have any self-esteem as a performer.

"It never occurred to me that that was the case. One of the great privileges of having grown up in a middle-class English household, but having gone to school on the frontlines of south-east London, was that I became half street urchin and half good boy at home. I knew that dichotomy was possible.

Bullied

"England is obsessed with where you come from, and they are determined to keep you in that place, be it in a drawing room or in the gutter.

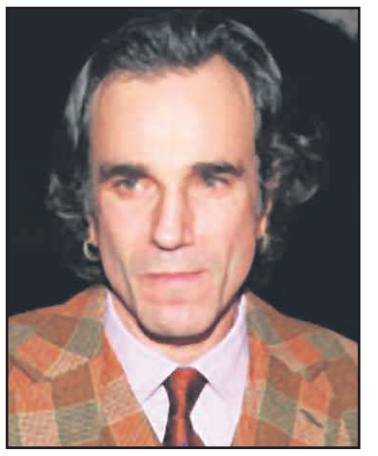
"The great tradition of liberalism in England is essentially a sponge that absorbs all possibility of change. America looked different to me: the idea of America as a place of infinite possibilities was defined to me through the movies."

He was raised in Greenwich, in Croom's Hill, and as a middle-class Jewish boy, whose father was the Poet Laureate Cecil Day-Lewis, he was often bullied.

To fit in, he adapted the mannerisms of a south-east Londoner in what he would later describe as his first role.

But his parents took a dim view and, fearing he was becoming "too wild", sent him to board at Sevenoaks School in 1968.





OSCAR HOPE: Daniel Day-Lewis, in new film There Will Be Blood (left)

Despite being miserable at the school, it was at Sevenoaks that he discovered his two loves: acting and woodwork. He later moved to the liberal public school Bedales in Petersfield.

After school, he applied – unsuccessfully – to become a cabinet-maker's apprentice so went to the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

Stage and a few small film roles followed before he found fame in My Beautiful Launderette and then A Room With A View.

He won an Oscar in 1989 for his role as Christy Brown in My Left Foot and went on to star in The Last of the Mohicans, The Age of Innocence and Gangs of New York, made by Martin Scorsese.

Day-Lewis has become well known for adopting the method approach to acting, where the actor totally immerses himself in a character to seem as lifelike as possible.

For There Will Be Blood, he studied the historic period for two years and researched the tools used by California oilmen.

"This work requires an unusual combination of qualities," he said. "With acting, there is always that intangible aspect that goes beyond the practical framework. Marlon Brando had that – the freedom that he had was more the instinctive freedom of an animal at times than a human.

"And Robert De Niro! The world he offered in his performances had a palpable humanity. I was utterly sure that he was that man in Taxi Driver.

"I have no idea by what means he arrived at that but I dare say he convinced himself that he was that man too."

Day-Lewis has only appeared in four films in the last decade; he said he has found it difficult to leave a character behind after the near-total immersion of his acting.

"There is a terrible sadness. The last day of shooting is surreal. Your mind, your body, your spirit are not prepared to accept that this experience is coming to an end.

Intense

"You've devoted so much of your time to unleashing, in an unconscious way, some sort of spiritual turmoil, and even if it's uncomfortable, no part of you wishes to leave that character behind.

"The sense of bereavement is such that it can take years before you can put it to rest," he told the Telegraph.

There Will Be Blood, described as an intense 158-minute epic and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, will be released in February.

Day-Lewis is married to Rebecca Miller, the daughter of playwright Arthur Miller. They live in Ireland with their two children.

News and sport updated daily
www.kentnews.co.uk

Return concert hits right note

LED Zeppelin's comeback show at Greenwich has been hailed a rocking success.

The legendary heavy rock band performed their first full show for 19 years – and tore the roof off the 02 Arena.

Singer Robert Plant, guitarist Jimmy Page and bassist John Paul Jones, from Sidcup, played classics to a sell-out 20,000 crowd.

Hits included Stairway to Heaven, Black Dog, Good Times Bad Times and Whole Lotta Love.

Music writer Adrian Thrills said: "As comeback shows go, this one was special. If the band plan to make these shows a regular event – the waiting list for tickets will again run into the millions."

Run activities for children and young people?



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If you run activity clubs for children and young people in Kent the Kent Children's Information Service needs to hear from you.

Every day we take calls from parents seeking information and advice about childcare and early education.



Increasingly parents are looking for details of less formal activity clubs such as breakfast and after school clubs,



parent and toddler groups, sports and youth clubs, scouts, brownies, dance and drama clubs.

By agreeing to put details of your group together with a contact name and telephone number on our database we can pass this valuable information on to parents at no cost to you whatsoever. So what are you waiting for?

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(Calls made from mobile phones may incur network charges.)

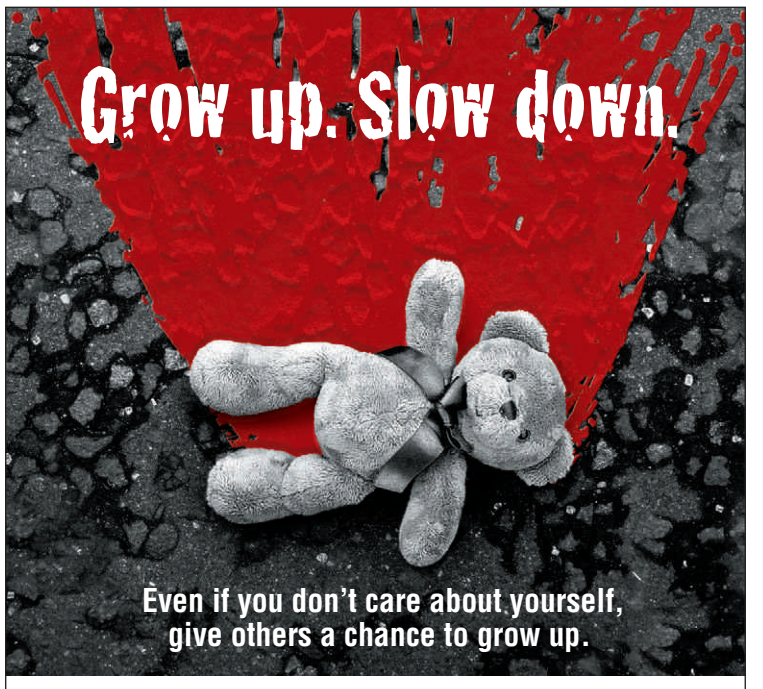
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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Scapegoating of a civil servant?

THERE is a lot riding on the success of the £9 billion Thames Gateway project.

It must deliver hundreds of thousands of new homes and jobs on time and on budget.

There will be a heavy fall-out if it is perceived to have failed in any respect.

So perhaps it was inevitable that we learned this week of the departure of chief executive Judith Armitt.

The Department for Communities and Local Government was not commenting formally on the reasons for her leaving.

Instead it issued a letter thanking Mrs Armitt for her contribution to the project.

But it has been made clear to Kent on Sunday that Mrs Armitt was indeed sacked.

After last month's damning report by the House of Commons' Public Accounts Committee – which described the project's management as "weak" – Mrs Armitt's fate was probably decided.

Whispers could be heard ahead of the Thames Gateway forum that certain people were "in the last chance saloon" over the lack of progress.

Then in swept Housing Minister Yvette Cooper, one of Gordon Brown's cronies, to deal the fatal blow.

It seems unfair that a civil servant should take the blame for the problems in the project.

After all, she could only work within the parameters set for her by her political masters.

Back in May, Mrs Armitt told KoS that she would take "full responsibility" for delivering the project.

These are not words you often hear from a Government minister.

OPINION: Matter of life and death

Shutting beds is not the way to solve cash problems in the NHS, says JENNA PUDELEK



THE William Harvey Hospital in Ashford was put on red alert this week.

Ambulances were prepared to be diverted to other A&E departments and NHS sources claimed doctors were told "only to admit the most serious cases".

The 24-hour alert was called, I'm informed, because the hospital was running out of space – there were too few beds to care for many more patients.

In this country, we take our access to healthcare for granted, particularly in an emergency. If our loved ones fall ill, we expect our hard-working NHS doctors and nurses to take care of them and the treatment they receive will be given to them for free.

But what is the real cost of care? Keeping the NHS free at point of use becomes tougher each year.

The pressures are immense. Nye Bevan's dream was that medicine should be free and available to all, but expensive drugs are constantly being developed. There are virulent strains of superbugs to tackle and there are the constant demands of looking after an aging population.

It is frontline staff that must endure the effect of money-saving measures while continuing to provide an increasing amount of services and free healthcare.

Imagine working at a hospital and having to turn patients away, making judgement calls on which patients were going die if they were not admitted, deciding who was well enough to be sent home and all the time coping with management edicts that beds must be freed up so the alert status could be lowered.

I'm told there is huge pressure on doctors to reduce the length of a patient's stay. A consultant is often judged by the average length of time a patient stays in hospital. This has raised fears that some patients might have been discharged too soon.

It is no wonder stories frequently surface in both the local and national press of low staff morale and discontent across the NHS.

The William Harvey was forced onto red alert on Wednesday by a combination of bed shortages and "winter pressures", said the East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust.

Over the winter months, more people go to A&E suffering from chest infections, colds and flu. Staff sickness and annual leave adds to the pressure. And bouts of the winter sickness and vomiting bug pile further pressure on hospitals that have cut bed numbers to save money.

Last year, the number of beds in east Kent was reduced to avoid big deficits, which comes with a perceived general reduction in emergency care services across southern England.

Health bosses plan to make more cuts – evident through Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's proposals for Maidstone A&E – in the hope that community services will increase.

But those hopes have not been realised and across the south of England every year there has been a steady increase in emergency admissions, it is claimed.

Now, the NHS in west Kent faces a huge challenge in the future because of the new hospital planned for Pembury, under the controversial PFI.

The trust may not get as many beds as it would like or need.

If it wants more beds, it must pay for them and this could result in crippling annual repayments to the private firm that will build and maintain the hospital.

Evidence of the problems facing trusts that become tied to expensive PFI projects can be found at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

In November the hospital was on black alert, which is the next level up from the red alert status seen at the William Harvey.

Paramedics were forced to treat patients in the back of ambulances because the other hospitals in the area were also on the top alert.

The Government hails the Norfolk and Norwich as a flagship for the PFI scheme.

But to some analysts, the hospital is simply not big enough for its catchment area. Why not? Because it would have cost too much money.

So major pressures and challenges face the NHS in Kent. The public and the media are constantly told that acute hospitals do not need as many beds today because medical advances mean patients can be discharged quicker and sometimes do not even need to be admitted at all.

This may be true, but it is hard to ignore that trusts, many of which continue to struggle to balance their books, can save millions by cutting bed numbers.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements
In partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BARBER
Ian and Lisa of Faversham are very pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Florence Amy Barber, on 17th November 2007.

BARMAN
Leigh and Matthew Barman of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their son Charlie John on 24th November 2007.

BARTER
Ellie-Ann Jai, born on 5th November 2007. Weighing 4lb 4oz. A sister for Lin, Ash, K-J, Meggie, Charle and Harry.

BROADWAY
Abbey and David from Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful twin girls Megan Louise and Morgan Deborah, born on 2nd November 2007 at William Harvey Hospital

BUCHANAN
To Andy and Claire of Herne Bay a handsome son, Kieran Zachary, born on 28th November 2007.A new baby brother for Sophie, Samuel and Summer.

BUTTERS
Abigail Keira Anne born 4th December 2007 weighing 4lb 3oz. Daughter to Russell Butters and Emma Davies of Ramsgate.

CHAWNER
Hana and Mark are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Kristina Isabell, born on 29th November 2007 at QEQM. Sister to Adam and Sebastian.

COLLARD
Vicky and Michael are very proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Bethany Ann Rosemary Collard born 15th November 2007 at 4.27am weighing 8lb 9.5oz. Love and blessings from grandparents Dawn Jackie and Paul

CONABEER
Simon and Cheryl of Whitstable are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ruby, on 30th November 2007. A new baby sister for Alicia and Lily.

CROW-BROWN
Julia Rose born on Seventh December 2007, weighing 6lb 10oz. Daughter to Elisabetta and Derek in Ramsgate.

CURTIS
Alfred Frank born on 20th November 2007, weighing 8lb 2oz. Son to Sarah and Alfred Curtis.

DAWSON
Mark and Gillian of Vigo are very proud and delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Milly Louise on 7th December 2007.

FLOWERDEW
Leo, born on 27/11/07 weighing 4lb 14oz. Son of Richard and Heidi King.

GRANT-LITTLECHILD
Leon Littlechild and Hayley Grant of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their son Ethan James Grant-Littlechild on 30th November 2007, weighing 5lb 2oz.

HANMORE
Rosemary and Shaun Hanmore are proud to announce the birth of their babies Alexander and Emily, born 25th November 2007 at Pembury.

HARE
Amanda and Nick of Kings Hill are pleased to announce the birth of their Daughter Sophie Loiusa Jane Hare on 23rd November 2007, weighing 7lb 4.8oz.

HARRIS/STONES
Jo and Quint are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl Fenella Biba Stones on the 13th November 2007 weighing 7lb 15oz at Pembury Hospital

HOLLANDS
Katrina Hollands of Edenbridge celebrates the birth of her son Tyson William James Hollands on 2nd December 2007

JARMAN
Kerri Georgina born on 4th December 2007,weighing 9lb 6oz. Daughter to Georgina and David in Ramsgate. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

JONES
Kieron born on 29th November 2007,weighing 8lb 8oz. Son to Chris and Kerry in Ramsgate. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

LEVETT
Riley Harrison born on 26th November 2007, weighing 6lb 12oz. Son of Simon and Nichola Levett of Paddock Wood.

MANNING
Victoria and Paul of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Brooke Louise, born on 29th November 2007. Sister to Erin Sandy.

PARKER
Alisha born on 29th November 2007,weighing 7lbs. Daughter to Andrew and Lucy in Dover. Sister to Jordon, Abigail and Jake.

SAYERS
A new baby son Sam born to Paul and Michelle of Northfleet on 29th November 2007. A brother for Owen.

STEDMAN-COLLINS
Henry Edward born on 30th November 2007 weighing 8lb 6oz. Son to Luke and Philippa, in Newington, Folkestone.

THOMPSON
Karen and Kevin Thompson celebrate the birth of their son Ethan Alan born 2nd December 2007.

TOLLEY
Freddie Paul Shaun Ernie Jim born on 28th November 2007 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford, weighing 7lbs 11oz. Son to Shaun and Tricia, brother to Siobhan and Kye.

VARNALS-SMITH
Harry George born on 20th November 2007 weighing 7lb 15oz. Son to Kelly and Mark in Ashford, brother to Freddie Charles.

VERSFELD
Loftus and Corné are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Rodé, born on 7th December 2007.

WANO
Troy and Cecilia are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Freya Te Aroha on 10th November 2007. A baby sister for Oskar and Maui

WARD
Tracy and Tony Ward of Ashford celebrate the birth of their son Charlie William Ward, born on 26th October 2007, weighing 7lb 9oz. Brother to Ella and Haydn.

DEATHS

AYLING
Kevin Ayling, aged 44,of Faversham, fell asleep suddenly on 2nd December 2007. He leaves behind his wife Cindy and two boys Charlie and Tommie. God Bless.

BAKER
Margaret Baker of Maidstone, widow of Sidney Baker, died peacefully on 7th December 2007. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium at 3:30pm on 19th December.

BREWER
Christopher Leonard James Brewer of Maidstone passed away peacefully after a long illness on 6th December 2007.

DAVIES
Barbara (Dolly) of Rusthall Tunbridge Wells died 9th December 2007. Funeral at St Pauls Church Rusthall 20th December 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Enquiries via Boormans Tunbridge Wells.

DAVIS
Ray passed away in Herne Bay on 10th December 2007 will be sadly missed by his family including Grandchildren and Great Granchildren Many Thanks to Broomfield Lodge For their care Funeral details from A Welch Herne Bay.

EMERY
Arthur Richard (Tom) Slipped away peacefully in Kent and Sussex Hospital on the 11/12/07 Sadly missed by wife Joan, Ann and Terry, Joanna, Nick, Family and friends. Sincere thanks to the nursing staff of ward 8 enquires to Perigoe and Son Cranbrook.

GILBERT
Francis Sydney Gilbert (Frank) passed away peacefully on 3rd December 2007.To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

GOODSELL
Mollie Ruth formerly of Iden Green passed away on 10th December 2007. Will be greatly missed by her family and friends. All enquiries via Perigoe and Sons, Cranbrook

GRAVENELL
Mavis Phyliss Gravenell of Senacre Wood Maidstone passed away peacefully after a long illness on 9th December 2007, aged 75. Funeral enquiries to Sears Funeral Service , Maidstone, 01622 754663.

MORRISSEY (STOVOLD)
Jane Hamilton Morrissey (formerly Stovold) of Margate, passed away on 4th December 2007.

RUSSELL
Cynthia Joan Russell of Marden, formerly of Chainhurst, passed away peacfully on 29th November 2007, aged 78. Sadly missed by her husband Norman, son Nigel, daughter in law Nicola and two grandchildren, Emma and Hannah.

STEWART
Thelma Stewart passed away peacefully on 10th December 2007. Sadly missed by her husband Bob, her three daughters Margaret, Ann and Kay, and their families and friends. Service at St Simons Church South Ashford 20th December at 11am. No flowers please, donations to the Celia Blakely Unit via Doves Funeral Directors 01233 643000.

WICKER
Jack (John Arthur) Wicker of Rochester passed away suddenly after a short illness on 5th December 2007 at Canterbury hospital.Will be sadly missed but reunited with Marjorie. God Bless.Memorial thanksgiving service on Tuesday 18th December at 2.30 at Chalk C of E Church, Gravesend.

WOODS
Margaret Woods of Seasalter passed away suddenly on 3rd December 2007. Loving wife to George,much loved mum to Helen, Peter and David and a much loved Nan and Great Nanny.She will be very sadly missed by everyone.

The price of progress

We have all, including your correspondent Phil Granger, benefited over the past decade from cheap Third World manufacture and would have done so whichever party was in power.

The mistake, however, lay in failing to see that this situation was only temporary and that rising living standards everywhere would level the playing field, which is beginning to happen now.

I suspect Mr Granger is of mature age and probably in comfortable circumstances which will clearly colour his views.

However, I think most people in this country as much as anywhere else want increased prosperity and improving services.

That means continued economic growth and there will be little support for any political party that proposes otherwise.

The world has never stood still and will not do so in the future.

Leaving aside the as yet unanswered question of how much of the climate change which is unquestionably happening is due to other causes, the way to reduce human produced greenhouse gas emissions is to use technology, not go backwards in living standards!

EG Egan
Harrietsham

Where's the local talent?

I refer to Mr Openshaw's letter of last week. He overlooks my main points: the large risky debt and lack of openness on financial details; the detriment to both cricket and non-cricket business of building on the practice ground and principal car park; the impracticality of a hotel on this site.

Mr Openshaw misinterprets: it is the management that I view as top-heavy and needs slimming down – not so long ago Les Ames ran the club with minimal support.

More emphasis on developing local talent and less expense on overseas players would cut the losses and create more personal interest.

Everybody is pleased to see Denly and Tredwell emerge, but does losing the practice ground bode well for the future?

Dr Michael Townsend
Canterbury

A question of numbers

I find it rather rich of Mr Brian McCullough to suggest that I was guilty of misinterpreting the Kent County Cricket Club voting figures when he then goes and puts his own spin on them.

The facts are that 1,765 members voted. 1,347 were in favour of the St Lawrence Ground redevelopment proposals; 418 were against. More than half of the some 4,000-strong membership did not vote.

Therefore the majority expressed no opinion: either for or against.

Accordingly, I stand by my original claim that Mr Jon Fordham was disingenuous in stating that "most members support the plans".

William Burnett
Canterbury

Abandon this eyesore

If the horrible tower will not be profitable unless it is 32-storeys high, best abandon it.

Such a monstrous eyesore would be completely incongruous in a town like Gravesend which has been improved so much over the last few years.

Rob Heywood
Gravesend

False sense of security

Your recent letter from the Home Office minister Meg Hillier spins but ignores some inconvenient facts.

Far from just "core information", state officials will have the most detailed picture of your private life, including your use of banking, commercial and public services.

Their proposed National Identity Register (NIR) database will store details of every time your ID is checked.

Biometrics won't guarantee their security. Just last week, a group of security experts described Government claims about the technology as "a fairy tale view". And the idea that ID cards can prevent illegal immigration is absurd. They don't on the continent.

By making unrealistic claims for ID cards, the Government will again fail to deliver on some real problems, such as benefit fraud.

It can only make things worse – a hugely invasive database combined with widespread data-sharing will compromise everyone's privacy, and vastly worsen the risk of identity fraud.

Only last year, civil servants were found to be sharing sensitive data with fraudsters. Now they have lost the personal details of 25 million people (including those whose identity they were supposed to be guarding from organised crime).

In talking up ID cards and the NIR, a minister who does not understand the technology is offering you a false sense of security.

Phil Booth
NO2ID
London

Tired of police moaning

I enjoy your paper and congratulate you on your recent Newspaper Society award.

I am tired though of reading about the police on their £21,000 a year or whatever it is.

I have a dear friend suffering from cancer and expected to live on her Department of Social Security allowance of £72 a fortnight, thankfully helped by friends, all OAPs themselves.

The police are well paid and should be able to tide themselves over any lack of full payment for a few months.

Gwen Chapman
Broadstairs



Show us the evidence

The obvious response to the list of achievements given by the spokeswoman for the South East England Development Agency to justify their existence is very simple. Prove it.

As part of a Government shown up as congenital liars time and time again, why should we believe a word they say?

Where are the jobs and just what was their involvement in creating them?

How did they secure the Tour de France coming to Kent?

Come on Seeda, let the poor taxpaying mugs that pay your wages see the evidence.

LD Goddard
Ashford

A police response

Regarding your article about work being carried out by police community support officers (PCSOs) to address local concerns about speeding drivers, I would like to clarify the position of Kent Police.

PCSOs play an important part in our neighbourhood policing teams, dealing with a wide range of issues including antisocial behaviour, vandalism, under-age drinking and large groups of young people causing alarm to residents.

Neighbourhood policing is about working with local communities to tackle problems that affect people's quality of life.

Through Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, local people set local priorities for local policing.

In some communities speeding vehicles are the biggest cause of local concern, with residents genuinely worried about safety.

Sometimes we work with parish councils to set up a Speedwatch scheme, so that local people can monitor and measure the speed of traffic.

In other places where concerns have been raised, PCSOs will use speed monitoring equipment.

Registration numbers are recorded so that letters can be sent to motorists who persistently speed, warning them of the possible consequences and urging them to drive responsibly.

In some places we also use portable equipment that displays speed to drivers, similar to the fixed signs you now see in many villages warning motorists to slow down.

If there is no problem evident we can reassure residents. Where there is clearly an ongoing problem, action will be taken.

This might involve speed enforcement by police officers qualified to use speed measurement devices, or action by the local highways authority to slow vehicles down.

Contrary to the suggestion in your article that PCSOs stop work at 5pm, our PCSOs work different shifts and are just as likely to be on the streets until 11pm, depending on the issues they are dealing with.

The important thing is that they are responding to the issues that local communities say matter the most to them.

Steve Harris
Acting Assistant Chief Constable
Kent Police

A council tax on drivers

Why is Medway Council charging for parking on Sundays and Bank Holidays up to 10pm?

This is certainly not going to encourage shoppers to come here on those days and diners into our towns in the evenings. There are plenty of restaurants just outside of the towns where people can dine at their leisure and park free.

Perhaps the council thinks the restrictions will reduce congestion and pollution, or is it that the council needs more money to waste?

Can the council guarantee a proper, reliable economical public transport service up to 10pm and on Sundays and Bank Holidays?

If not then the motorist will have no choice but to use their cars and then be forced to pay in the car parks.

Councillor Rodney Chambers says that it "is a regrettable but necessary measure to reduce the council's overspend".

This I believe is illegal. Money collected from parking is supposed to be spent on the administration of the parking service, not put into the general fund and any monies over to be spent on the improvement of the public transport services. What's to stop the council putting up the parking charges every time it gets short of money ?

It seems that parking charges are really a second council tax.

Come on you motorists, write to you councils and MPs to complain.

P Nassan
Chatham

We need speed cams

Although not a Labour supporter I agree with their MP for South Thanet, Stephen Ladyman, that speed cameras are necessary.

The ordinary driver having passed the basic driving test isn't capable of driving safely at higher speeds that the national limits.

Those who disagree cannot have consideration for anyone but themselves.

Speed cameras replace previous 'speed cops' who used to chase a vehicle before giving the driver a ticket – surely much more dangerous than a camera.

We have discovered this from the many fatal accidents where police are chasing drivers for other illegal actions.

I cannot believe that drivers aren't slowing down. Surely if they continue to abuse speed limits wouldn't they eventually lose their driving licence?

James Mason
Sittingbourne





KOS Training, Education, Courses & Careers



KOS Media | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817001 | email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.kentnews.co.uk

SPONSORS KENT ADULT EDUCATION | SKC South Kent College ASHFORD › DOVER › FOLKESTONE | cis KENT CHILDREN'S INFORMATION SERVICE | the UNIVERSITY of GREENWICH | UCF university centre Folkestone

TO find out about adult education courses, readers are invited to log on to Kent County Council's website. Visit www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning to discover what courses are available and when.

Teacher swap success

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

AN AMERICAN teacher has swapped the wide open spaces of Virginia for suburban Kent.

Karen Franklin, who is an IT teacher at Smithfield High School in the eastern US state, has taken part in an exchange programme with Winsome Glaye from Orpington College.

Miss Franklin said one of the main differences she has had to adjust to is ditching her car, which she used to get everywhere in the US, for public transport.

She said: "My students have had some fun with me over explaining festivals like bonfire night, which of course I'd never heard of before. Plus we've had a giggle about some words which have different meanings in the UK from the US!"

Miss Franklin, who taught 14 to 18 year olds in the US in a school with more than 1,200 pupils, has fitted well into fellow IT teacher Mrs Glave's role at Orpington College.

She said: "I've found the college friendly and supportive and my social circle is increasing.



PERSONAL GROWTH: Karen Franklin, 28

"I'm also looking to find out how I can indulge my hobby – which is belly dancing – in the local area. I've also got involved with a church – another big difference from the US is that my church congregation here represents 30 different countries."

Miss Franklin is staying in Mrs Glave's house while the Kent teacher and her two daughters are staying in an apartment close to the Virginia high school.

The teachers have taken part in the 'life swap' for a whole academic year.

"The opportunities for professional and personal growth are endless and I intend to take full advantage while I'm here", Miss Franklin added.

Run by the British Council in collaboration with the US Department of State, the programme offers outstanding UK teachers the opportunity to trade places with an American teacher.

Teachers can opt to spend either the autumn term or one full academic year teaching in the United States. Exchanges involve elementary and secondary schools, including kindergarten and community colleges throughout the United States.

The costs of transport for the exchange are covered by the programme and participants will continue to be paid by their employer while on the exchange.

For more information visit www.fullbrightexchanges.org.

Find more education stories online
www.kentnews.co.uk

South Kent College
For a selection of courses starting early in the New Year, visit
www.southkent.ac.uk/newyear
Places are still available on two full-time courses starting in January:
Food Preparation and Cooking NVQ 1
(Dover Campus)
Hairdressing NVQ 2
(Folkestone Campus)
Alternatively, call in at one of our campuses or telephone
0845 207 8220
Information: 0845 207 8220
Visit: www.southkent.ac.uk
SKC South Kent College ASHFORD › DOVER › FOLKESTONE

University shows IT is more than a game

TEENAGERS had the chance to test their skills on a range of computer games at a special event held at the University Centre Folkestone.

The aim of the event was to attract young people so they could see the facilities on offer and learn about the new courses available at UCF.

The new university is a partnership between the University of Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church University. It opened in September.

Steve Archer, a senior lecturer who organised the event, said: "We wanted to attract the attention of local youngsters and computer games are ideal.

"We set up a range of games for pupils from schools in and around Folkestone, explaining how they are made as well as the design techniques involved.

"At UCF we run a series of IT courses from taster sessions through to degrees.

"All courses are designed to meet the skills requirements of local businesses and the best way to let potential students know about what we offer is to get them into the building so they can see for themselves."

Pizzas were provided as refreshment between games. The event will be repeated in the New Year.

UCH is based at the Glassworks, which have been refurbished by the town's Creative Foundation.

It has strong support from the South East England Development Agency, the Higher Education Funding Council for England and Kent County Council.

To find out more about courses at the University Centre Folkestone visit www.ucf.ac.uk or call 01303 760 600.





Adult education courses can be a family affair

A MOTHER, son and daughter have all completed a major adult education course.

Sarah Waters, from Ashford, wanted to keep up with her children Scott and Zara's education.

So she has gained a formal qualification alongside her children.

They all studied for a Skills Plus course through the Kent Adult Education Service.

Mrs Waters went to her local centre on Stanhope Road and began with level-one numeracy.

She passed and progressed onto level-two numeracy and level-two literacy. A year later, she has gained all three qualifications.

She is now keen to progress onto other courses and is hoping to enrol on a GCSE course.

She said: "Going to Skills Plus is like being made to feel part of a family and I would recommend the scheme to anyone."

Her children started attending six months ago and have now also both completed a level two certificate in Adult Literacy.

Scott is planning to join the police force in the future and Zara is hoping to progress onto a health and beauty course.



Celebrating Kent business

KOS media

Business Success Stories 2007













THIS year's Business Success Stories reveal a thriving economy in Kent.

Companies have reported encouraging growth over the last 12 months and they are full of confidence for 2008.

The underlying philosophy of these successes remains the same for each of these diverse firms – to provide excellent customer service.

Each company has stated just how important it is to make sure the customer is always looked after.

It is KOS Media's pleasure to highlight today the impressive progress made by Kent firms.

For this company, it has been a significant year. Five years to the month since the first Kent on Sunday, the company launched eight free quality local papers and websites.

They cover Thanet, Dover, Shepway, Swale, Ashford, Medway, Maidstone and Canterbury and carry the Yourlocal brand.

The company also launched the yourkenttv.co.uk website, a free broadband TV service featuring films both uploaded by our viewers and made by our team of reporters.

For Kent on Sunday, it was another good year.

The Newspaper Society again named KoS as Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year.

Judges praised it as being packed full of news, views and advertising and "was so good you would expect to pay for it".

The Society also awarded Advertisement of the Year to the campaign in Yourthanet with Miles & Barr Estate Agents.

However, our newspapers and websites would be nothing without our readers and advertisers.

We would like to thank you all for your continuing support and loyalty over the last 12 months.

We value it and we wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

KOS Media has produced this special business supplement to highlight our support for Kent companies and to share with our readers their stories of success.

We know there are many businesses across the county working hard to make sure they are the best in their fields.

Read on. We hope you enjoy their stories ▶



• yourkentTV.co.uk



• kentnews.co.uk

Plus our other local websites

- jobsforkent.co.uk
- carsforkent.co.uk
- propertyforkent.co.uk
- yourashford.co.uk
- yourcanterbury.co.uk
- yourdover.co.uk
- yourmaidstone.co.uk
- yourmedway.co.uk
- yourshepway.co.uk
- yourswale.co.uk
- yourthanet.co.uk

BUSINESS success 2007

Sagitta Consultancy

Experts in market research surveys

SAGITTA Consultancy Limited specialises in market research for both consumers and business to business clients.

The Hythe-based company was established in 1999 by co-directors, Ted Weller and Amanda Johnston.

The pair previously worked in advertising, market research and translating, so are more than qualified to offer an outstanding service.

The company also offers language translation and data processing, thanks to Amanda's and Rachel Griggs' expertise in these areas.

Sagitta has conducted a wide range of market research surveys for clients and agencies in both the private and public sectors.

The Sagitta workforce comprises five office staff and around 300 interviewers managed in regional teams across the whole of the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

To ensure accurate results, the market research process involves interviewing consumers in central locations as well as online, in store, in the street, door to door and by telephone.

Business research is carried at respondents' premises, at central locations, online and via the telephone.

The detailed research looks at a number of areas, including product and concept testing; awareness, attitude and usage; advertising and brand tracking; packaging, design and name testing, packaging and price evaluation; and customer satisfaction.

Both Ted and Amanda take a personal and hands-on approach to their work, dealing with their own clients and managing projects, reflecting their commitment to client projects and clear results.

This year has been a particularly good year for Sagitta with a range of studies across various industry sectors and larger surveys than ever.

Ted said: "We are also conducting more online research and computer-assisted interviewing, which are truly effective ways of gathering opinions."

Looking to the future, Sagitta Consultancy plans to increase partnerships in Europe to be able to offer clients greater scope for research in overseas markets.

It also plans to get involved in more client projects where it can design the methodology and content.







Sagitta



Sagitta

01303 267 647 - 70 High Street, Hythe, Kent, CT21 5AL
www.sagitta-consultancy.co.uk

BUSINESS success 2007

Thorley Taverns

Warm welcome at all our pubs and hotels

THORLEY Taverns have been operating pubs and clubs for over 30 years in Thanet, London, Herne Bay and Sandwich.

The first hotel site, the Fayreness Hotel at Pegwell Bay near Broadstairs, was purchased as a pub with nine letting rooms. From the day Thorleys took over they had big plans to transform the building and, in 2003, following extensive renovation work, the hotel was completed with 29 en suite bedrooms, two large function rooms and a large public bar.

As soon as the work at the Fayreness had been complete, the group began work on the Oak Hotel in Ramsgate, which provided Thanet with another top class hotel with 34 en suite bedrooms, a café bar, a modern public bar, Atlantis Seafood restaurant and a function room.

Work then began on the group's latest venture – the Pegwell Bay Hotel, which with the first phase now completed, offers 42 en suite bedrooms, a separate pub and two large function rooms.

The hotels married up with the existing successful business plan of Thorley Taverns. The company branched out when they discovered there was a gap in the market for high quality hotels with function and food facilities.

Each of the three Thanet hotels enjoys a fabulous location; the Fayreness is on the cliffs above Botany Bay, the Oak Hotel overlooks Ramsgate's Royal Harbour, and the Pegwell Hotel sits on the clifftop above Pegwell Bay. Combined with great food and accommodation, these elements add something special to the first class services Thorleys provide.

Customers at any Thorley location will find bars stocked with a wide range of products and extensive food menus in the restaurants.

Experienced specialist teams are on hand to deal with functions, weddings and conferences at each of the hotels, which are open 365 days of the year!

These hotels have all been major developments in the company's 33-year history. Thorley Taverns will continue to develop its sites, investing more in Thanet.

The family run business is run by father and son, Frank and Phil Thorley who extend the 'family' element of the business to all management and staff, adding to the personal feel of the company. Most of the staff are on first name terms with both Frank and Phil, who can be seen on a daily basis at the venues.

The company puts their success down to the style, standards and level of services provided in all of their venues but say their biggest asset is their staff and the quality of the service and products they sell.

Managing director, Frank Thorley concludes: "Our success has come through investing time and money into our staff and providing stylish venues that have been developed to a high standard."

The Fayreness Hotel, Marin Drive, Kingsgate, tel 01843 868641, email reception@fayreness.co.uk, www.fayreness.co.uk; The Oak Hotel, 66 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, tel 01843 583686, email reception@oakhotel.co.uk; The Pegwell Bay Hotel, 81 Pegwell Road, Ramsgate, tel 01843 599590, www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk.









THORLEY HOTELS
PROUD OWNERS OF THREE OF THANET'S FINEST HOTELS

PEGWELL Bay Hotel
t: 01843 599590 e: reception@pegwellbayhotel.co.uk
w: www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk

The Fayreness Hotel
AA 3 Star
t: 01843 868641 e: reception@fayreness.co.uk
w: www.fayreness.co.uk

the Oak hotel
t: 01843 583686e: reception@oakhotel.co.uk
w: www.oakhotel.co.uk

Over thirty one years of style, standards and service across Thanet

BUSINESS success 2007

Skills Plus



skills plus

Kent County Council

Helping you get the skills needed at work

SKILLS Plus is an initiative developed and delivered by Kent Adult Education, which is part of Kent County Council.

The idea is simple: many people have gaps in their qualifications or find that they are held back in their career because they simply do not have the recognised qualifications they need in English and maths, even if they have many of the skills involved.

Skills Plus provides a free and quick way of brushing up on those skills and getting help to earn the National Test certificates that can make all the difference.

Each student has an initial meeting with a tutor to take a skills check to find out which areas of knowledge need the most attention. With their tutor they plan an individual learning programme to meet those needs. After that they can arrange to call in at the centre to work on their programme of study at times convenient to them. Tutors are on site to give individual or small group tuition when it is needed, throughout the time of study.

The learning initiative is aimed at anyone over the age of 19 and enables people to gain National Qualifications in English and maths which are an accepted alternative to GCSEs for adults.

The first Skills Plus Centre opened in Sittingbourne in February, 2003. Today there are 11 Skills Plus centres across the county including Sheerness, Dover, Sittingbourne, Swanscombe, Maidstone, Margate, Tonbridge, Swanley, Gravesend and two in Ashford. Skills Plus is also delivered in some of the other main Kent Adult Education Centres across the county.

In October this year Skills Plus celebrated enrolling its 5,000 learner and since August alone, 1379 learners have enrolled, of which 164 have already achieved a literacy qualification and 78 a numeracy qualification.

Looking to the future, Kent Adult Education is looking to open further centres and building partnerships with a number of agencies including employers, schools, social services, early years and community groups to work together to help individuals gain confidence in their English and maths skills while working towards nationally recognised qualifications.

The 11 main Skills Plus Centres in Kent also offer the facility to take the National Test online so results are received almost immediately. This is ideal for those needing the qualification quickly for job or college interviews.

Skills Plus also works with families including parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, carers in schools or in the community to help them understand how their children are learning in schools.

A number of people on these programmes then take up further opportunities to train as teaching assistants.

Kent Adult Education believes that by strengthening its links with employers, it is able to help them upskill their workforce by improving their employees' English and maths.

As much of their learning is delivered using computers, the employers also update those IT skills which are vital to so many employers today.

Our future. It's in our hands.



Don't get left behind: take control of your future with better skills.











Call 0845 606 5606 today!

(many of these courses are free)

skills plus

Kent County Council

BUSINESS success 2007

Living Out Ltd

Timber buildings for outside space

LIVING Out Ltd was introduced at Johnson's Nursery near Herne Bay, to facilitate the moving on of the solid timber building sector of the business.

They offer a full survey, design, construct and build service for quality solid-wood buildings.

Johnson's have been selling garden buildings for 30 years at the site, expanding steadily from basic garden sheds to log cabin buildings and home offices.

It was two years ago that the business expanded dramatically when log cabin-type interlocking buildings gained in popularity.

Partnerships were forged with timber mills in Eastern Europe and Scandinavia for the production of machined spruce timber for the construction of quality solid timber buildings to Living Out's designs.

Today, Living Out is one of England's largest operators in the sector and with the opening of two more sites before February, 2008, will have the largest cumulative display in the country.

The business was set up by Ian Johnson and Jason Hoyle to meet the demand for quality lasting garden buildings in contrast to modern mass-produced inferior products and to fill a gap for the provision of functional garden buildings.

Customers at Living Out benefit from a professional level of customer service, a free design service, surveys and estimates, and an unparalleled after-sales service.

Commenting on the success of the business in such a short space of time, Jason Hoyle said: "We manufacture only substantial quality timber buildings and have invested heavily in staff, large displays and international business relationships.

"We strive daily to provide excellent products and service at competitive prices and provide solutions to create 'outdoor space'."

Looking to the future, Jason and Ian intend to continue to offer an unrivalled quality of service and product, building on their already excellent reputation.

The pair also plan to increase business outside the South East and into London and surrounding counties.

Living Out Ltd is open Monday to Saturday from 9am-5pm and Sunday from 10am-4pm.

LIVING OUT
Discover Outdoor Space







LIVING OUT LTD @JOHNSON'S Old Thanet Way,
Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3JD
01227 793717 sales@living-out.co.uk
www.living-out.co.uk

FANTASTIC OFFERS AVAILABLE NOW!
20% DISCOUNT*
LOG CABIN CLEARANCE SALE
* ON ALL EX DISPLAY BUILDINGS

LIVING OUT
Discover Outdoor Space

SEE OUR MAIN ADVERT ON PAGE 17 OF THIS PAPER

BUSINESS success 2007

Coyle Personnel Plc

Providing you the right staff 24 hours a day

RECRUITMENT specialists, Coyle Personnel plc have recently opened a new office in Maidstone.

Since the company launched in 1988, it has become one of the UK's leading suppliers of both permanent and contract staff.

The company provides a range of specialist professional recruitment and HR services aimed at placing permanent and temporary staff with a wide variety of employers, both large and small.

As a member of the REC (Recruitment and Employment Confederation), Coyle is committed to 'Approved Standards in Recruitment' and provides clients with a first-class professional service at highly competitive rates.

Coyle Recruitment consultants have a background and training in the industries they service, and have been with the company for a number of years, providing clients with excellent knowledge, stability and continuity.

The divisions:

- Construction, Trades and Labour
- Construction Professional and Technical
- Building services professional & technical
- Mechanical and Electrical
- Facilities Management
- Industrial
- Secretarial and Commercial
- Rail (London Underground)
- Highways
- Utilities
- Public Sector
- Social Housing
- Social Care
- Medical



The Coyle's teams:

The industrial team operates 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year and are on hand to solve staffing problems as and when they arise.

The team can provide all types of labour at short notice, fully referenced/skilled checked on a temporary or permanent basis.

The following gives an idea of the areas covered by this team, but are by no way exhaustive: Warehouse operatives; fork lift drivers; catering staff; LGV drivers; production operatives; cleaners and porters.

The trades team specialise in providing trained and experienced operatives in every field.

The team successfully delivers quality services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Some of the skilled operatives they supply include: labourers; groundworkers; bricklayers; carpenters; plasterers; handypersons; painters and plant operatives.

Coyles hospitality division is a leading executive search firm dedicated to providing permanent and temporary employment solutions for the hospitality industry in the UK.

The division has qualified chefs at all levels, plate waiting staff and catering assistants ready to work for temporary assignments in the Kent area and are currently supplying staff to big hotel chains and catering companies in and around Kent.

This division can supply chefs at all levels, catering assistants, kitchen porters, waiters and much more.

The professional technical team specialise in supplying construction professionals to projects throughout Kent, the UK and overseas.

The team remit covers civil engineering, building construction and structural design. Some of the professionals this division supplies include: site engineers; design engineers; project managers and commercial staff.

The rail team provide specialised staff to the rail industry throughout the UK.

They provide PWay; signalling; rolling stock; isolations; overhead line and professional staff with knowledge and skills to suit the requirements of each client.

The mechanical and electrical team specialises in the supply of electricians; plumbers; pipe fitters and associated mates, to companies throughout the UK.

Clients vary in size from single-man entities to the major PLC companies that operate in the M&E install market.

The scope of work is also varied, in terms of the type of work, industrial, commercial and domestic, and the duration which can be anything from a day to a year.

Vacancies are currently available in the following areas: CSCS and Non CSCS labourers; slinger banksman; cherry picker drivers; telescopic drivers; plasterers; site foremen; handymen; bricklayers; HGV drivers; carpenters; catering staff etc.

• Coyle Personnel can be contacted on 01622 772500.

John Davies – Industrial and Trades Manager; Scott Gisby – Professional and Technical Manager; Ron Mills – Mechanical and Engineering Manager or Nick Markwell – Rail Manager.

Coyle Personnel, Suite 34, Kent Business Centre, Kent House, Romney Place, Maidstone. www.coyles.co.uk.

COYLE
Personnel plc
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

COYLE PERSONNEL - KENT HOUSE - ROMNEY PLACE - MAIDSTONE - KENT - ME15 6LH - WWW.COYLES.CO.UK - 01622 772500

BUSINESS success 2007

Nasons

Independent firm that's focused on customer needs

FAMILY run department store, Nasons, is the perfect one-stop shop. Located in the heart of Canterbury, the store was established in 1929 by Fred Nason and it remains in the family today with Andrew Nason as joint managing director.

In 1962 the company moved to its High Street position, where it has become a landmark in the city.

Its growing reputation for quality furniture and good customer services led it to outgrow the store and further space was needed, and bought, and it now boasts a 35,000 sq ft retail space.

In 1987 further expansion took place when the firm moved part of its product empire to a new specialised store on the Wincheap estate on the edge of Canterbury. An extensive selection of carpets were introduced alongside the furniture. This freed up the High Street store for more product ranges and it currently stocks range from G Plan Upholstery, Ekornes, Lazyboy and Vale Upholstery. Soon after, a menswear and ladies' fashion and shoe department emerged.

Bedroom furniture is also displayed at the High Street store, along with china, gifts, cookware, lighting, lingerie, linens, nets, soft furnishing, tiles, Gamleys toys and Royal Doulton.

In January this year Nasons revamped the cookware department to blend seamlessly into the gift department. This means common merchandise such as kitchen electrical, glass, tablemats and china can be mixed and matched with the traditional kitchen items.

In addition, the linen department now offers aprons, tea towels and tablecloths, which match the other ranges. All three departments will form a new 'home' floor.

Commenting on the changes, joint managing director, Nick Betts said: "I was happy to move to own buying as we are members of Associated Independent Stores (AIS), the largest independent, voluntary, buying group of its kind in the UK with a combined membership turnover of circa £1.6 billion.

"We already use AIS for many of our other departments including the Wincheap store and I wanted to take advantage of the wide range of fantastic deals on offer in cookware for a long time.

"All the old favourites are available plus many new items. We have been lucky to keep the existing cookshop staff so we still have the product knowledge and experience this type of department needs.

"We can now tie into AIS's buying power and product-led promotions and provide our customers with a wider range and fantastic money-saving offers."









WINTER SALE

starts 9.00am 27th December in both stores

NASONS



Nasons Department Store,
47 High Street,
Canterbury, CT1 2SB
Tel: 01227 456755
www.nasons.co.uk



Nasons Furniture, Carpet and
Bed Centre, Maynard Road,
Wincheap Estate, Canterbury
Tel: 01227 463550
www.nasons.co.uk

BUSINESS success 2007

Oliver Carpets

SUCCESSFUL carpet and flooring specialist, Oliver Carpets continues to build on its success with the launch of a new store in Herne Bay.

Owned and managed by James Farley and Roger Truelove, the company was launched in 2004, initially with a store in Margate Road, Ramsgate, which has since been substantially expanded.

Before the pair launched the business, they spent 10 years in the flooring trade perfecting their skills. In addition, James grew up around the prestigious Farley's furniture store in Ramsgate, so customer service and satisfaction is in his blood.

Customers of Oliver Carpets will find a superb selection of woods, laminates, vinyl and carpets at extremely competitive prices.

James and Roger pride themselves on offering a professional and personal service which extends to free delivery, estimates, door bars, grippers and fitting. The store-to-door service means is nothing short of first class, with customers even benefiting from free removal and disposal of old carpets.

With their 'no worry' policy, James and Roger put their success down to all the free extras coupled with excellent referral work.

Looking to the future Oliver Carpets plans to continue offering excellent service and build on its already extensive customer base.

Olive Carpets is on Margate Road, Ramsgate. Tel: 01843 594200, and 171 High Street, Herne Bay. Tel: 01227 363777.

The world is at your feet with Oliver Carpets





NO WORRY POLICY: The team at Oliver Carpets offers a first-class service which includes the removal of your old carpets

Oliver Carpets

Top Quality Wood Flooring At Great Prices Latest designs, colours and fashions in store

At Oliver Carpets we adopt a different policy!

'A don't worry policy'

Old carpet down? Don't worry we dispose of it FREE

Furniture to move? Don't worry our team will move it FREE

Can't leave your home? Don't worry home call service FREE

FREE

✳ Fitting ✳ Estimates ✳ Gripper Rods

✳ Door Bars ✳ Delivery ✳ On all carpets & vinyls

OPEN 9.00-5.30 MON-SAT

Visit our showrooms to see the latest designs and fashions at unbeatable prices with service to match!

326 Margate Road Ramsgate 01843 594200 • 171 High Street, Herne Bay 01227 363777

VISA

BUSINESS success 2007

Orbital Beds

Stores worth getting out of bed for



GROWING: Since opening Orbital beds, Peter Cosgrove has opened Beds 4 Us (above) and Cathedral Beds (below). He says the stores' success is down to 'giving customers what they want, at a price they want to pay'

DODGY building work which resulted in being left with no roof on his house was the turning point for Orbital Beds owner Peter Cosgrove to set up his own business.

"I had a normal job at the time and had to do something drastic, so I decided to set up the business in a building that has been derelict for 10 years and within four weeks of signing up, we opened."

Peter started with Cathedral Beds in 2000 and since then has opened Beds 4 Us on the Wincheap Industrial Estate and Orbital Beds in Ashford.

The company specialises in beds from all over the world including four-poster models. With more than 300 different types of bed on display, there is something to suit all tastes.

Shoppers will also find a selection of furniture for the rest of the home, including leather suites, dining sets, bedroom furniture, and a huge selection of children's beds and furniture.

In addition to an extensive array of beds and furniture, customers benefit from a free delivery service, available seven days a week. Because Orbital uses three different delivery companies to keep up with demand, customers are assured on a fast and professional service.

Commenting on what has made the business so successful in such a short space of time, Peter said: "Giving customers what they want and at a price that they want to pay has helped make the business along with the attention to detail and great service on offer."

Looking to the future, Peter plans to offer a wide and more extensive range of products and to keep improving the excellent service that customers already receive.



JANUARY SALE NOW !

Leather Suites, Beds, Mattresses and Guest Beds

SAME DAY DELIVERY* * If ordered by 12 noon

CATHEDRAL LEATHER SUITE AND BEDSTEAD CENTRE
23 Maynard Rd, Wincheap Trading Est
Canterbury Kent CT1 3RH
01227 789111

ORBITAL BEDS
Ashford Trade Centre,
Orbital Park
Ashford Kent TN24 0SP
01233 500603

BEDS 4 US
Unit 4 C Simmonds Road
Wincheap Trading Estate
Canterbury Kent CT1 3RA
01227 765544







BUSINESS **success** 2007

JC Farley Ltd

Family tradition has built furniture business



JC FARLEY Ltd has evolved and grown from secondhand house clearers into a 20,000 sq ft sales showroom with a huge range of furniture.

Shoppers at the prestigious Ramsgate-based store will find extensive collections of beds, bedroom furniture, upholstery, tables and chairs, mirrors, lights, pictures, carpets, hard flooring, massage chairs, disability chairs and motion beds.

With 14 full-time members of staff on hand, including four family members, customers receive an unrivalled level of care and expert, friendly advice.

Established in 1928, today's store is run and managed by the founder's grandson, John Farley, who has had passed onto him an inbred sense of giving value and respect to the customer.

A major development in the company's history included the purchase of the neighbouring property, Townley House, plus a warehouse dedicated to delivery services.

The company has also created a 'home sales' department with dedicated staff and management and a specialist transport service to bring the less mobile into the shop.

Shoppers at JC Farley Ltd benefit from a range of services including interest free credit, home sales, personal service and delivery from stock on a huge range of products.

Commenting on the company's long running history, John Farley explained that unparalleled customer service and value, coupled with a very friendly personal service is what has made the business the long-lasting success it is today.

Looking to the future, the company aims to develop the product range to make Farley's the first choice for furniture and beds in Thanet.

Plans for expansion of the home service department are also in the pipeline so that shopping is made easier for the less mobile clients, helping to retain their dignity.

The directors and shareholders would like to thank the staff, without whose great efforts the success of the company would not be possible.

F A R L E Y S

Established 1928 ~ four generations of Family Service & Quality

THE GRAND FURNITURE SALE STARTS BOXING DAY AT 10AM



Farleys don't do furniture sales very often. so when we do we like to offer our customers some really fantastic prices. You will find hundreds of bargains with half price offers on many selected end of line items, as a huge stock clearance takes place across our 20,000 square foot showroom.

If you are looking for beds, mattresses, tables, chairs, suites desks, lighting or just about any other item of home furnishing, don't miss the furniture sale at Farleys.

Hurry! Because the sale only lasts until Sunday 20th January and it may be a long time before we have another one.



Open 10am - 4pm Sundays
sales@jcfarley.co.uk

Townley House, 48-54 Chatham Street, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7PR
Tel: 01843 593069 www.farleysfurniture.co.uk

BUSINESS success 2007

Web Dandy

Web company that puts customers' needs first

WEB Dandy is a web design and internet company specialising in providing bespoke, eye-catching and affordable websites that serve as a stunning first point of contact for businesses, schools and colleges.

Founded in 2005 by husband and wife team David and Elaine Wildash, Web Dandy has enjoyed a sustained and healthy expansion over the past two years.

This year saw the company expand its portfolio of services to include a feature-rich content management solution and eCommerce shopping cart platform.

The company's head office in Kent is home to its dedicated development team as well as in-house design experts who are tasked with providing customers with specialist knowledge to enhance their organisations web presence.

Web Dandy currently has education specialists who design and develop school and college websites and virtual learning environments; an SME team which focuses solely on delivering cost-effective solutions for small and medium businesses through to a key accounts team that look after larger multinational clients like Tommee Tippee.

Commenting on what makes Web Dandy successful, founder and technical director Elaine Wildash said: "Our focus is on providing high quality, accessible web design and outstanding customer service. We care about our clients and work hard to offer them an excellent service.

"All of our client's websites are custom designed for their business in a style that's right for them and their business sector, so they can be sure they have a 'one of a kind' design that is specifically aimed at their market place."

What makes Web Dandy different from its competitors is that it puts accessibility and usability at the very core of its company ethos and design process to ensure all its websites comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and meet the latest legal requirements.

Elaine added: "Too many web designers today cut corners and leave clients with poorly designed, old-fashioned table-based websites which are not user-friendly and can't be found in the search engines. It needn't be that way.

"A well designed, search engine [Google, Yahoo, MSN] optimised website can be a joy visually and easy to use as well as acting as an excellent marketing tool for your business."

Earlier this year Web Dandy's board made a decision to develop a website which would help inform and educate companies and parents about sites like Facebook, MySpace and Bebo.

Web Dandy's director David Wildash said: "As a business we are very conscious of the impact that social networking sites are now having on the internet and that many companies and parents are actively looking for solutions to ensure staff are protected from bullying and children stay safe on the net."

'Web Wise Matters' is due for launch early next year, along with the company's own in-house hosting platform.

Web Dandy is a member of the UK Web Design Association, Guild of Accessible Web Designers and Web Standards Group.

The company's portfolio of services includes programming and database design, HTML email and newsletter design and management and e-book publishing.

Web Dandy offers all new clients a complimentary web audit to check if your site meets legal accessibility standards.



CUTTING-EDGE DESIGN: Web Dandy, a bespoke service, offers eye-catching and affordable websites



BUSINESS success 2007

Invicta Motors

Customer service is always top of our agenda



INVICTA Motors in Westwood specialise in the sale of new Fords as well as quality used cars.

All used vehicles are prepared to the highest standards and all undergo a 110 point safety, while all Fords come fully prepared and independently inspected by the RAC.

New models introduced to the Ford range this year include the Galaxy S Max, and the award-winning Mondeo, while 2008 will see the arrival of the new Focus, Fiesta and Ka.

Despite being part of the Summit Group, Invicta at Westwood is run as though it were a family run business.

Commenting on the personal level of service offered, Ryan Masoura, new and used car manager, (pictured right) said: "We care about our customers and the service we offer."

The level of customer service is reflected in the 'Customer Satisfaction Award 2007', which Invicta Motors Westwood scooped earlier this year as well as 'Dealership of the Year 2007' and 'Innovation of the Year' award, presented for their unique approach to events that are offered to the people of Thanet, as well as great service and offers.

Further community events are in the pipeline for 2008, including more of the popular themed weekends. Invicta Motors will also continue to sponsor Thanet Youth Football Club.

The team have created a friendly and happy environment, making buying a new or used Ford a memorable experience.

New general manager, Chris Whitehead has restructured the team so that all sales staff are able sell both new and used vehicles.

All sales people are Ford trained and provide a professional, efficient yet friendly and knowledgeable service.

The sales process has also been revised to offer a quicker and more convenient service for customers.

Invicta Motors has more than 1,000 cars available so customers can be certain they will find the car they're looking for. As part of the Summit Group, Invicta Motors can also source new and top quality pre-owned Aston Martin, Jaguars and Volvos.

The Invicta Motors price promise guarantees to beat the price of a written quotation for a similar model from a local main dealer.

Testament to Invicta Motors level of customer service, the following are comments left by customers after a customer satisfaction survey:

"I don't think you can improve your customer service – I was initially very worried but the salesman made it a simple proceedure and made me feel I matter."

"I felt during the time I was in the showroom, the salesperson made me feel that I was a valued special customer and for that I am grateful."

"As a first-time Invicta Motors customers I can't think of any way to improve the service provided. Thank you".



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Cars for illustration purposes only. Offers supersede all other advertised offers and are subject to availability.

BUSINESS success 2007

The Tile Cellar

Personal touch fits in with all your tiling needs



FITTING APPROACH: The Tile Cellar has turned things around by completely refurbishing its showroom and increasing display areas with great results.



WITH the third year of trading looming in January, things are on the up for The Tile Cellar, which is located in Sutton Valence in Maidstone.

While others may be experiencing a general downturn in the market place, The Tile Cellar has turned things around by completely refurbishing its showroom and increasing display areas with great results.

Add this to their excellent personal service and next year promises to be even better than this one.

The company provides a home-fitting service, and for those that feel they can rise to the challenge of laying their own tiles, is more than happy to offer expert advice and guidance.

To help people laying their own tiles The Tile Cellar's blueprint service provides clients with a blueprint of where each tile has to be laid to achieve the chosen design.

Not only will the blueprint tell customers where each tile should go, but they'll be given professional advice on adhesives, grouting, specialist tools etc – everything they need to know to achieve that perfect wall or floor.

The business is run by joint managing directors, Simon Gundry and Martin Jennings, who between them have 20 years of experience in the ceramic business.

Customers will find an extensive collection of tiles made from a variety of different materials including ceramic, porcelain, glass, mosaic, travertine, slate sandstone and other natural stones.

With a wide range of designs and styles in flooring in stock customers could have a bathroom with pebble flooring or multi coloured tiles that glisten with special effects.

Underfloor heating and insulation boards are also available as well as Hamiltons Kitchens, which is located on the top floor of the showroom.

Hamiltons Kitchens is run by Guy Gillander who has turned the top floor into a one-stop shop for the perfect kitchen refurbishment.

Customers also benefit from free delivery on orders too heavy for a ordinary car, ample free parking and loading bays for the bigger jobs.

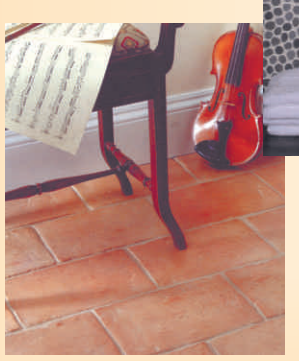
The Tile Cellar, is in Sutton Valence, Maidstone, a short distance from Junction 8 of the M20, is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday from 9am to 4pm, with out of hours services catered for if required.

YOU WONT FIND A BETTER TILE CELLAR

VISIT OUR NEWLY REFURBISHED SHOWROOM

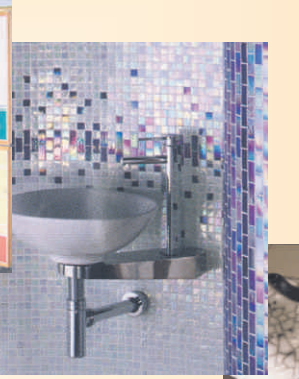


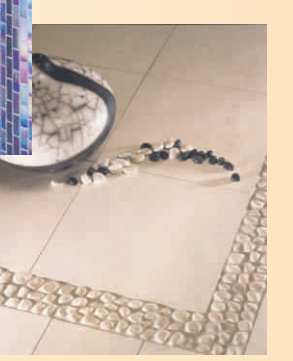




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THE TILE CELLAR

T: 01622 844211
www.thetilecellar.co.uk

BUSINESS success 2007

Thanet College

Work-based learning to put apprentices on path to a career

APPRENTICESHIP schemes are an excellent way to acquire practical work-based skills on the job, and develop knowledge through theoretical learning, as well as improving maths and English, typically done through day release at a college.

However, to be an apprentice a young person not only has to find a job but one where the boss is prepared to support them with training.

For the employer, the challenge is to find a reliable and motivated candidate who has the potential to develop into a successful member of the organisational team.

Commencing in January, Thanet College is launching a Programme Led Apprenticeship Scheme which will 'marry' prospective apprentices with employers.

Apprentices undertake a 12-week programme at Thanet College, covering a vocationally related qualification, key skills in communications, application of number and IT, and employability skills including working with others and customer service, CV writing and interview skills.

It is the college's aim that by the end of the programme, apprentices will be 'work ready' to enter employment to finish the Full Apprenticeship by completing the NVQ in the workplace at a job, which the college will support them in finding.

If you are aged 16-19 and interested in joining the course, please call Thanet College's Customer Relationship Team on 01843 605032.

Employers interested in taking on an apprentice or being involved in the Programme Led course are encouraged to call the workforce development co-ordinator Nick Miller on 01843 605036.

Nick is here to make things easier for you. He said: "I am delighted to join the Business Services team as customer relationship advisor.

"In this new role I will be working to pro-actively engage with employers and promote the College as the key training provider for local business in Thanet.

"I invite you come in to see the facilities at the college and meet with the Business Services team.

"For information about training and staff development please contact me on 01843 605032 or email me at nick.miller@thanet.ac.uk."





TUITION: Apprentices April Hodgson, Kerry Vella and tutor Nella Adamo; and (right) customer relationship advisor Nick Miller

Did you know you could train your staff for FREE with the help of Thanet College?

For more information call us on 01843 605032 or email training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk

Thanet College TRAINING SOLUTIONS At Work - Through Work - For Work

www.thanet.ac.uk

STARTING SOON: Principles of Manual Handling

Date:Wednesday December 12 Duration:1/2 day Location:Thanet College Cost: £55

To book your place call: 01843 605032 or e-mail: training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk

Action for Business College

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

BUSINESS success 2007

Abbey Practice

Independent medical services you can afford

THE Abbey Practice is a thriving private medical practice located on the outskirts of Dover in the village of Temple Ewell with easy access from the A2 and rail link to Canterbury.

It offers a quality, affordable and comprehensive Independent Medical service for the people and businesses in East Kent.

Founded in 1992 by Dr Anthony Stellon, the Abbey Practice has a reputation for high quality patient-centered care, and is well known for offering complementary therapies alongside traditional treatments.

With 30 years of NHS experience, Dr Stellon runs the Abbey Practice along with his wife Janet, a trained nurse with management qualifications.

As an NHS practice, the Abbey Practice became the first single-handed practice to be awarded a Government Charter Mark in 1977 in recognition of the quality of services provided to patients.

Dr Stellon piloted the use of acupuncture in the locality and demonstrated clinical effectiveness in a range of musculo-skeletal problems.

On January 3, 2005 it became an Independent Medical Practice.

The services now offered include general medical consultations, Acupuncture, Sports Medicine, Occupational Health Screening and Travel Medicine. The practice is a registered Yellow Fever Centre. Dr Stellon is approved by the Marine Coastguard Agency to provide Medical services for Seafarers and the Marine Industry. He is approved to provide Acupuncture by the main Insurers. In addition Complimentary Practitioners provide Chiropody, Reflexology, and Herbal Medicine and there is a Beauty Therapist.

Many patients have found that their NHS GPs are too busy and focused on government targets to provide the type of patient-centered consultations that they want. The past three years have clearly demonstrated a market for the type of Primary Care consulting offered at the Abbey Practice.

The service offered is thought by its users to be excellent, as demonstrated by three consecutive patient questionnaires which have demonstrated high levels of user satisfaction. In terms of value for money, 98 per cent of the people questioned thought the practice offered a cost-effective service.

The Abbey Practice is a family run practice which not only provides excellent medical care and treatment, but also offers its patients a warm welcome and caring environment.



Abbey Practice



- **General Medical Consultations**
- **Acupuncture**
- **Sports Medicine**
- **Occupational Health Screening**
- **Travel Medicine**

107 LONDON RD, TEMPLE EWELL, DOVER, CT16 3BY
Tel: 01304 821182,
www.abbeypractice.co.uk

BUSINESS success 2007

Whitstable Glass

Pair built business up to be a shining example

WHEN Richard Gradus and co-director Mick Gray took over Whitstable Glass three years ago the business was so run down the pair had to start from scratch.

A lot of dedication and hard work has helped turn the company's fortunes around, and they have grown to include four teams of specialist installers ablle to fulfil all manner of double glazing and glazing requirements.

Both Richard and Mick have decades of valuable experience under their belts, Mick having spent 30 years in the industry and Richard having established two successful businesses as well as previously coming from an engineering background.

All Whitstable Glass customers are offered a comprehensive range of services including uPvc windows, doors and conservatories, as well as a complete range of glazing, incorporating bespoke mirrors, glass, and kitchen splashbacks.

The pair feel their professional manner has been a significant contributing factor to the company's success, along with a dedicated hard-working team who provide an efficient and quality service at competitive prices.

Unusually for a double glazing company, and good news for potential customers, is that Whitstable Glass does not use a sales rep and steers clear of cold-calling and hard selling.

Director Richard Gradus personally visits each client upon request – many of whom have been referred to Whitstable Glass by other satisfied customers.

Whitstable Glass is situated at Unit A, 1-3 Belmont Road, Whitstable.

For further information call 0800 169 7232.









TOP-NOTCH: Whitstable Glass offer customers a comprehensive range of services including Pvc windows, doors and conservatories

Whitstable Glass & Windows

INSTALLERS OF HIGH QUALITY INTERNALLY GLAZED WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES



Free No Obligation Quotations
No Salesman - No Commission - No Pressure
Internally Glazed Units
7 Point High Security Locking System
70mm Fully Welded Frames
Multi-Chambered
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Unit A, 1-3 Belmont Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1QJ Web: www.whitstableglass.co.uk Email: richard.gradus@eurotelonline.com

BUSINESS success 2007

Headway Doors & Windows

From strength to strength because of good service

HEADWAY Doors & Windows Ltd is a local friendly family run double glazing company with a difference.

Supplying the trade and domestic market, husband-and-wife team Darren and Vicky Marks decided they wanted to be different to your typical double glazing company by offering a wider range of high quality products with an unbeatable personal service to match.

Their dedication to high quality products and customer service makes them stand out from the rest.

Headway has won an average of 98 per cent customer satisfaction awards for the last three years by an independent association. These awards were achieved by their constant dedication to improvement, with all customers completing company questionnaires, many of which are on display at their showroom.

Darren and Vicky believe their high number of happy customers has been achieved by the products they supply being of the highest quality available, and their workmanship second to none, but also because of that little extra service they provide. Vicky said: "Customers are not just a number or a job, many become friends of the staff at Headway.

"We even have some customers that just pop in for a chat or bake us cakes, etc. In this day and age this is very rare and it gives us all great job satisfaction.

"Darren recently delivered a flat-screen television to elderly customers of ours when we were doing a special offer on all conservatories.

"He ended up unpacking it and installing it until late one night and they were over the moon. Some local people will call us just for advice and we are happy to help."

Headway also supports and helps local charities. At a large charity event held earlier this year they provided a free barbecue, drinks and entertainment, and arranged a Ferrari display.

Local comedian Dave Lee and Holly Harrison, an up-and-coming singer, entertained everyone and £1,700 was raised for the Happy Holidays Charity, which helps local kids in Kent. The turnout was so good – more than 250 people turned up to support the event – that Headway plans to make it an annual event. As animal lovers, Headway also supports local animal charities, and lots more.





Headway is so confident in their service and products that Darren and Vicky have decided to join the new 'Buy with Confidence Scheme', which has been introduced by Trading Standards.

Trading Standards vet and monitor all members of the scheme, giving the consumer that extra peace of mind and support should anything go wrong.

Darren and Vicky feel this is a wonderful scheme when there are so many 'cowboys' out there.

Headway offers an extensive range of products and spend many hours with customers before they even place an order, ensuring that the each client has the largest choice available and that they get the correct products to suit their house and needs. All products are tailor made and with such a large choice customers can really personalise their home.

Headway's high quality PVCU windows, doors and conservatories hold the 'Secured by Design Certificate' which was initiated by the police who test all locks and certify them if they pass their rigorous test.

The company also holds the 'Saracen Secure Guarantee' which means that if the consumer should ever be broken into, Headway will give them up to £1,500 compensation, as they are that confident in their security. Customers also have a choice of different finishes from standard bevel to fully featured, giving more choice to suit a variety of properties. White, light oak and rosewood finishes are available.

Headway has also been chosen to be an approved installer for the new Evolution products. These products are PVCU but with a big difference – they are mainly hand made by quality craftsmen and offer a wood effect white PVCU window.

This gives them the appearance of painted wood with mitered joints to make the windows look and feel like traditional timber but with all the modern technology of PVCU windows.

Customers will also find a large selection of Georgian bar windows which have been accepted by the Heritage Association.

With continuing conservation rules being implemented by local councils, Darren and Vicky decided they needed to be able to offer customers who are either not allowed or do not want PVCU windows an alternative, and have recently become an approved installer for timber windows.com.

They offer the best quality timber windows and doors available on the market, in a choice of colours and finishes to suit all properties, with a 30-year guarantee and built to last 150 years.

Headway firmly believes that their timber windows can add 10 per cent to the value of your home.

The company also offers bespoke conservatories in all their ranges. A free computer-aided design service is available to enable customers to see their conservatory on screen before they buy.

Headway build all their conservatories to building regulations standard so the customer can be ensured their dream conservatory has been built to the highest standard.

Due to Darren and Vicky's commitment to quality and service, the company has gone from strength to strength and in March 2007 they moved to bigger and better premises on the exclusive John Roberts Business Park in Whitstable.

The estate is located on the main Whitstable to Canterbury road.

Headway has built a new showroom displaying a range of products and has recently purchased a new fleet of vehicles to ensure the safe transportation of their products.

BUY NOW PAY LATER
Finance options available to suit all budgets

Keep warm and secure this winter...

...with individually designed windows and doors, we can help you make a good house simply beautiful.

FREE
32" flat screen TV
THIS MONTH
with each conservatory ordered before 31st Jan 2008.*





Make this Christmas extra special with
HEADWAY
windows ▪ doors ▪ conservatories

Contact our office for a free, no obligation quote

0800 616 590

Email: headwaywindows@tiscali.co.uk
www.headwaydoorsandwindows.co.uk
Headway, Crown House, John Roberts Business Park
Pean Hill, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3BJ

100% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

BUSINESS success 2007

St George's Margate







Chevy value aligned with VW class

ST George's Margate was established as a Volkswagen dealership more than 18 years ago to serve the needs of Thanet motorists.

It soon developed a reputation for high quality service coupled with a friendly personal service – factors so often missing from many of the larger dealerships.

Over the years, this enabled the business to flourish and expand.

When the original proprietors decided to retire, it became part of a small family-run group of garages.

This allowed greater investment in the technical side of St George's operation, enabling the staff to have at their disposal the very latest diagnostic equipment along with Volkswagen training programs.

This means up-to-the-minute technology is available alongside the personal services that St George's is famed for.

After reviewing the operations in 2006, the management identified an opportunity for a value-centred brand to be introduced into Thanet and negotiations commenced with General Motors to introduce the Chevrolet brand to the area.

Out of respect for their large Volkswagen customer base, any changes would have not to affect their ability to look after all VW vehicles.

Volkswagen UK was also keen to continue to be represented in Thanet and a business model that has worked well in continental Europe was adopted.

This means St George's continues to represent Volkswagen UK as fully authorised partners, so there is no change in the VW stakes.

The introduction of Chevrolet to St George's means it now offers Britain's fastest-growing value cars.

With superb equipment levels, long comprehensive warranties and prices starting from under £6,000, St George's and Chevrolet are poised for even more success.

DISCOVER MORE CAR FOR YOUR MONEY.



The new Chevrolet Captiva.
Vehicle shown is Captiva 2.0 LTX £23,740 OTR.

Range Features: 7 seat option • Petrol and diesel option • Air conditioning
Electronic Stability Programme • Alloy wheels • On Demand All Wheel Drive
Rear parking sensors.
Introductory offer free 3 years/30,000 miles servicing.
Finance options & P/X available.

ALL THE CAR YOU NEED.
PLUS IT'S A CHEVY.
CHEVROLET

St Georges
www.chevrolet.co.uk
8-12 Harold Road, Cliftonville,
Margate, Kent CT9 2HT
Tel. 01843 230300

Motability

3 years/30,000 miles full service package is available as an introductory offer on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 31st December 2007. Vehicle shown includes metallic paint at £400 inc. VAT, total cost £24,140. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km). Captiva range: Urban - 23.5 (12.0) to 32.1 (8.8), Extra Urban - 38.7 (7.3) to 41.5 (6.8), Combined - 31.7 (8.9) to 37.1 (7.6). CO_2 emissions 197g/km to 225g/km.

BUSINESS success 2007

Kent Benefits Partnership

Making sure you claim what you are entitled to

The Kent Benefits Partnership (KBP) was launched in 2004, funded by Kent County Council and the local councils in Kent and Medway.

Initially, KBP's remit was to raise awareness and increase take-up of Council Tax Benefit for the over-60s but this has now expanded to include Housing Benefit and claims for all age groups.

KBP was formed when KCC and the councils of Kent and Medway looked at research that showed a large number of people who were entitled to claim Council Tax Benefit were not claiming it and, therefore, paying too much Council Tax.

Originally set up as a one-year project with eight members of staff, by providing services to the local councils in Kent and Medway, KBP is now a permanent, self-funded organisation with 15 employees.

The partnership is based in offices at Springfield in Maidstone and since its launch it has awarded more than £3 million in benefits to the people of Kent and Medway.

As well as its excellent training team, KBP has a dedicated team of qualified assessors whose job it is to process claims and give advice and answer telephone inquiries (in most cases callers can be told over the phone whether they are likely to be entitled to benefit).

There is also a 'take-up' team whose job it is to try and reach those people who still haven't claimed their entitlement to Council Tax Benefit or Housing Benefit.

The team can often be seen at supermarkets and other retail outlets handing out leaflets and giving advice to people and it regularly links up with local authorities and welfare groups to attend functions throughout Kent and Medway to promote benefit take-up.

There is also a visiting officer who undertakes home visits to help fill in claim forms and to see documentary evidence, thus avoiding the need for important documents to leave the person's home.

The commitment of the staff to make the partnership work has no doubt helped KBP to become so successful.

Looking to the future, KBP will continue to promote benefits to those who are entitled to them, as well as continuing to support the councils of Kent and Medway.

For further information call 0845 345 0310 or visit the website at www.kentbenefits.org.



Paul O'Grady said: "Thousands of people are missing out on the money they are entitled to. Phone the Kent Benefits Partnership to find out if you are one of them."



"If you have a low income and less than £16,000 in savings you should give us a call. It's only the cost of a phone call to find out"

Could you be missing out? Give us a call to find out.

Kent Benefits Partnership 0845 345 0310

KBP KENT BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP
Working for and with you

Have you got less than £16,000 in savings?
And in receipt of a low income?
Then you might qualify

Mrs P of Maidstone said *" I am so happy now. If it wasn't for KBP I would have had to move out of my home".*

KBP KENT BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP
Working for and with you

BUSINESS success 2007

TaxAssist Accountants





EXPANSION: Peter Norfolk and the rest of the TaxAssist Accountants have moved to new offices in Herne Bay

Taking the stress out of accounts

TaxAssist Accountants, located in the centre of Herne Bay, is part of one of the UK's largest accountancy network, specialising in providing a walk-in service for small business owners in the area.

Owner and manager of the branch, Peter Norfolk, along with his team of experienced staff, offer a wide variety of services including end of year accounts, annual tax returns, staff payroll, VAT returns and bookkeeping.

Assistance on preparing cashflows, budgets and projections can be provided as and when required, as well as Bank and Inland Revenue representation for clients.

TaxAssist Accountants prides itself in providing advice tailored specifically for the needs of self-employed individuals, partnerships and small limited companies.

With a professional yet accessible approach, TaxAssist has developed a client-friendly concept which has led to a demand for the services offered.

Due to its success, the company recently expanded, resulting in a move to a larger office in Herne Bay and the employment of more highly qualified members of staff.

Peter Norfolk said: "I am delighted to be moving into these new premises. Our aim is to provide a highly accessible service for small business owners in addition with our expansion we now hope to attract a wider geographical audience within the district'.

By offering a friendly local service in more than 190 branches nationwide and with the back-up of a national organisation, over 12,000 UK business owners have already turned to TaxAssist Accountants.

Peter added: "By offering a friendly and prompt service, with fixed fees agreed in advance, it allows our clients to concentrate on what they do best, with the assurance their accountancy needs are being well looked after."

TaxAssist Accountants
The Accountancy and Tax Service for Small Business

TaxAssist Accountants, 154 Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5DU
Tel: 01227 370077 Email: peternorfolk@taxassist.co.uk www.taxassist.co.uk/peternorfolk

BUSINESS success 2007

Phoenix Link







INNOVATIVE: Paul Humphries says Phoenix Link provides an extensive range of telecom solutions to suit customers' needs

Bespoke telephony: the missing link

PHOENIX Link, the Kent-based telecommunications provider, has gone from strength to strength since it was founded seven years ago, becoming the telecom supplier of choice for hundreds of businesses.

Established to provide a wholesale alternative to BT Retail for the installation and rental of BT telephone lines, and the provision of reduced cost telephone calls to business users, over the years Phoenix Link has developed into a complete 'one-stop' solutions provider.

Operating from offices in Birchington, Phoenix Link provides bespoke telecommunication services to businesses throughout the UK, but concentrates on Kent, London and the Home Counties.

Such has been its success that clients now range from public organisations (NHS, schools and councils), to multi-site retailers, polo clubs and everything in between.

Currently handling some 1.6 million minutes of calls per month and managing thousands of telephone lines for clients, Phoenix Link provides the complete range of telecommunication services including: BT lines, lease lines, ADSL broadband, low-cost calls, mobile voice and data, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Non Geographic Numbers (08 ranges), Toshiba and Panasonic telephone systems, call logging, call recording, call centres, audio conferencing, phone cards and data cabling.

The secret of success for Phoenix Link is fundamentally down to the attitude, and experience, of the staff (the company employs 15 permanent staff/contractors and operates 24/7/365), a track record of adding value and cutting cost, and an ability to provide innovative solutions.

Paul Humphries, Phoenix Link managing director, believes the most popular services include 3G mobile solutions, which when combined with VoIP telephone handsets, provide an "office" without the need for a fixed telephone line; its Virtual Numbering (VN) platform allowing a business to keep its telephone number, even when it moves out of the BT Exchange area, and "Buying Groups" for doctors surgeries (reducing the unit cost for all members).

One of the community-based services Phoenix Link has just launched is for local schools, where a percentage of their telecommunication spend is returned to the schools to be used to fund educational projects.

For more information, or to book a free of charge consultation with one of our representatives, call Phoenix Link on 0871 223 2254 or email enquiries@phoenixlink.co.uk.

NEED TELEPHONE & INTERNET TO YOUR BUILDING SITE WITHOUT PUTTING IN A BT LINE?

SITELINK - the "Site Office" in a case from Phoenix Link ... portable internet access and telephony for the site - low cost & versatile. If you are a house builder or property developer then Phoenix Link has the solution to your site communication problem.



Save as much as £800 per site whilst gaining unlimited internet access up to 1.8 mbps and a business telephone with voicemail, call logging, MS outlook address book download, call forwarding/divert functionality, choice of STD code phone number, handset or web portal user set-up and administration, and reduced cost telephone calls.

All for £295 + vat investment & £35 + vat per month.
For more information call Phoenix Link on 0871 223 2254
or email enquiries@phoenixlink.co.uk

Phoenix LINK

BUSINESS success 2007

K&A Executive Travel

Our pride in a reliable and friendly service

THE 4th of July, 2005, proved to be a different kind of Independence Day for husband-and-wife team Kevin and Angela Ingram as their enterprise K&A Executive Travel was founded. The company provides clients with a range of services including airport transfers, minibus and coach hire, and transport for both corporate business trips and special occasions.

Kevin and Angela said: "We've been fortunate enough to find our own niche in the market, providing a high quality and caring service for a middle of the range price, factors that appeal greatly to our many corporate clients."

Based in Broadstairs, K&A Executive Travel offers the facility of allowing prospective customers to view vehicles prior to making bookings, allowing Kevin and Angela to meet them face to face and assist with all travel arrangements.

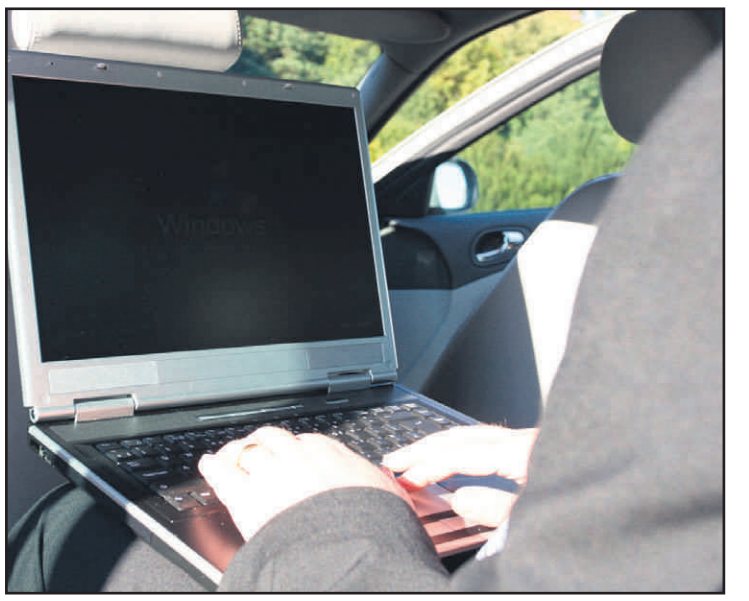
With the first acquisition of a five-seater people carrier in 2005, K&A Executive Travel has grown impressively over the two years, with the employment of full-time drivers and the purchasing of a range of vehicles including minibuses, S and X Type Jaguars and an eight-seater MPV. Having recently received licensing to purchase coaches, K&A Executive Travel is on the road to further expansion in the near future.

This has been a successful year for the company, with the nomination for a 'Pride in Thanet' award for excellence in customer service.

Angela said: "I believe the reason we won the award is due to the fact K&A Executive Travel is not just about transporting customers, its also about caring for them and offering a bespoke service on a 24/7 basis."

With all cars fully insured, K&A Executive Travel pride themselves on a reliable, friendly service which meets and exceeds high customer expectations, and offering customers free individual pick ups and drop offs to ensure their safety.









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K&A Executive Travel
Travelling made easy



BUSINESS success 2007

M&S Brickwork

Building a fine reputation from the ground upward

ESTABLISHED 10 years ago, M&S Brickwork has built an excellent reputation in Kent, through customer recommendation aided by some good advertising.

The company provides a complete building service from design through to completion.

The fully qualified team are happy to discuss at length any requirements for a project and advise on the best and latest designs available.

Having completed projects from £40 to £180,000 the company boasts a level of expertise and experience capable of dealing with any kind of job – big or small.

Extensions, new builds, garden walls, driveway, conservatories and patios are among the many kinds of projects undertaken by M&S Brickwork.

Thanks to the success of M&S Brickwork, two sister companies have been set up – M&S Windows, Doors and Conservatories Ltd and M&S Developments (NHBC registered house builders, building quality homes to high specifications).

Managing Director Martin Sturge puts the success of the business down to carrying out quality projects on time and on budget and providing customers with peace of mind throughout the job.

M&S Developments is a member of FMB (Federation of Master Builders), NHBC (National House Building Council), FSB (Federation of Small Businesses) and UK Trades Confederation.

The office is located at Unit 2, Fullers Yard, Victoria Road, Margate and can be contacted on 01843 232234.

For further information visit the website at www.mandsgroup.co.uk.





PAVING THE WAY: M&S Brickworks managing director Martin Sturge puts the company's success down to carrying out quality projects

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Part of the M&S GROUP
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www.mandsgroup.co.uk
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It's not just brickwork ...
At M&S Brickwork we boast the complete building service from design to completion. We will take time to discuss, at length, all of your building requirements whether it's a driveway or an extension and work with you to make your house a home.
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or 01843 232 234
and let us show you what you can achieve
Unit 2, Fuller's Yard, Victoria Road, Margate, Kent CT9 1NA info@msbrickwork.co.uk





BUSINESS success 2007

The Versatile Group

Providing advice when money matters most



FRIENDLY EAR: Adam Wood, managing director of The Versatile Group, based in Westgate-on-Sea

THE Versatile Group specialises in business and residential finance, including mortgages, re-mortgages and homeowner loans.

Since the launch of the family-run company in 2004, it has strengthened and developed its core products and services to ensure it provides expertise and versatility by optimising the skills and abilities of the professional team of associates and partners.

In doing so, it strives to maintain Versatile's trademark of quality customer service and satisfaction.

Explaining why the company was launched, managing director Adam Wood said: "The business was formed following identification and realisation there was a demand for a company that could provide a full range of residential and business financial services and complimentary facilities all under one roof, without compromising customer service and client satisfaction."

A wide range of business services are offered including commercial mortgages, property development funding, asset finance and all other aspects of commercial and business finance.

Accountancy and bookkeeping solutions, architectural and design services, planning advice and representation, legal services, business and commercial credit referencing facilities and directors reports are also offered.

Mr Wood said: "We also provide professional land acquisition and disposal services for and behalf of individuals, property developers, national homebuilders and local and central government departments, and site-shares on behalf of national homebuilders.

"Additionally, in conjunction with and as a result of the strong business relationship that has developed and flourished over the last three years between The Versatile Group and our numerous property development clients, we now also offer property investment opportunities and quality second homes direct from the developer, and in most cases with a significant discount.

"Mortgage advice and facilities are already in place if required."

Commenting on future plans for the company, Mr Wood added: "We aim to stay focused and consolidate upon the strong and progressive development of the last two years while enhancing our reputation and potential by ensuring our clients' interests and requirements remain our priority."

Adam puts the success of the business down to emphasis being placed upon quality rather than quantity; excellent customer service and being able to offer a 'versatile' range of services.

The Versatile Group is located at 16 Suffolk Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea.

An automated telephone message facility operates out of ours and can be contacted on freephone 0800 434 6950.

For further information visit their website at www.theversatilegroup.co.uk or send an email to enquiries@theversatilegroup.co.uk.

Residential Finance

FSA

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Please contact us should you have any other type of business finance requirement

The Versatile Group

Freephone
Tel: 0800 434 6950
www.theversatilegroup.co.uk

Think carefully before securing other debts against your home.

BUSINESS success 2007

Thanet Business World

Helping prepare you to do the business



THANET Business World started life 54 years ago as Thanet Typewriters, a small shop specialising in the sale and service of typewriters and cash registers for businesses in Thanet and the City of London.

Larger premises were taken in Cliftonville when the company expanded to include stationery.

In the 1960s the company accumulated some old shops in Margate Old Town and opened showrooms to display machines, stationery and office furniture.

Having built up a substantial customer base, including national customers, for the office furniture side of the business, more space was needed and a new centre in Westbrook was acquired in the 1980s.

Continued growth of the company meant that by the 1990s new products had been added and additional storage space was required, so in 2001 the business was moved to Goodwin Park in Westwood.

With the arrival of Westwood Cross shopping centre, Thanet Business World moved lock stock and barrel to a new home at 424 Margate Road, Ramsgate, where a full range of office products and furniture is on show and available quickly.

The family-run business is led by managing director, Stephen Matsubara, who puts the company's success down to competitive prices, continuity, reliability, honesty, integrity, good service and experience.

In addition to a first-class service, customers benefit from free delivery and a free office planning service.

A second large showroom is to be found in the centre of Canterbury managed by Chris Collett. Full ranges of furniture for the home and office are on offer at the store at 2/3 Orange Street close to the cathedral. A map on their website www.thanetbizz.co.uk shows both stores.



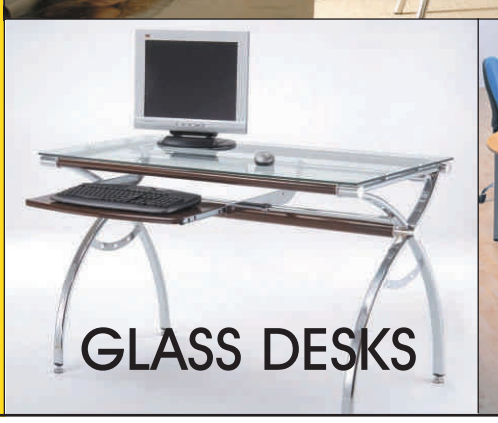
NEW HOME: Success saw Thanet Business World move to Margate Road, Ramsgate

Thanet Business World LTD
Office Equipment Stationery

Everything for the Office
FREE Planning
FREE Delivery

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Westwood,
Ramsgate CT12 6SR
Tel **01843 851600**









We stock a large range of ergonomic office working chairs that provide proper spine and lumbar support. Come to one of our showrooms and actually try the chairs! We all have differing needs when it comes to comfort.

You can choose the chair that is good for you! You can also pick your colour from a vast range of fabrics.

BUSINESS success 2007

Christopher Dempsey Kitchens & Bedrooms

Good design is the key for perfect kitchen



Christopher Dempsey will always make sure that the design you choose will fit in with your lifestyle

AN ATTRACTIVE bedroom or kitchen could potentially add thousands of pounds to the value of a property.

Over the past 12 years Christopher Dempsey, a craftsman of fitted kitchens and bedrooms, has specialised in the design and installation of these two important rooms.

The company was launched in 1995 with a shop at Thanet Road in Margate and later moved to premises in Broadstairs in 2001.

Christopher, a qualified carpenter with more than 20 years experience in the industry, worked with wife Joanne at Culvers (her father's family business) fitting kitchens and bedrooms before starting their own, which seemed a natural progression after Joanne's parents retired.

The showroom is at 2 Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, and although small, has examples of beautiful, traditional and modern kitchens. There are many cabinets to choose from and high-tech German RWK kitchens in a huge range of colours and finishes.

Kitchens can be complemented with stunning granite and composite worksurfaces.

Fitted bedrooms are by Hepplewhite with a selection of both modern and traditional designs.

Chris and Jo are revamping the showroom at the moment and are hoping to complete the work in the next couple of months.

Chris said: "We like to keep up to date with all the latest trends and finishes.

"Design has become a lot more sophisticated over the years with so much available now. Good design is key and we pride ourselves in making the most of every detail so that our kitchens not only look good, but work perfectly."

He added: "We are not afraid to try out new or radical ideas if the customer requires it, all of which can be represented with our first class computer and design package, which customers can take advantage of in the showroom."

Customers will find a good range of appliances, including Bosch and Gorenje.

The company uses a small team with Chris very much involved in the installation process. This means all projects get the personal treatment which gives customer confidence and means a lot of work is recommendations.

As a result, business continues to bring the customer all the advantages of major brand names, fitted with the care and attention you would expect from a local company which relies so heavily on personal recommendation and reputation.

Chris added: "Because we are a family-run business, it enables us to see each project through personally. Quality installation and working with a small team of people keeps continuity.

"We believe in good design and are happy to push the boundaries to achieve something a bit different."

In addition to the installation and design of kitchens and bedrooms, the team is also able to carry out any small building alterations that may be required, such as plastering, tiling and electrical and plumbing work.

"We love to welcome people into our showroom and talk through ideas with them and make appointments and show them samples. We have a large portfolio of work now which we love to share with future customers."

He concluded: "We believe that small is beautiful and our aim is to remain that way."

Christopher Dempsey is open Tuesday to Saturday from 9.30am to 4pm. For further information call 01843 600063.

Craftsman Fitted Kitchens & Bedrooms



SALE NOW ON
UP TO 25% OFF
HEPPLEWHITE
FITTED
BEDROOMS

Christopher Dempsey

2 Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent
Tel/Fax: 01843 600063

BUSINESS success 2007

Eternal Energy System







Get a warm home and peace of mind

THE ever-increasing cost of providing energy for our homes not only puts a huge financial strain on the average family but the constant reminder of the harm we are doing to the environment adds an extra burden.

With the advent of Home Information Packs and the Energy Performance Certificate, the size of a property's carbon footprint can even be the deciding factor in its sale.

Imagine a heating system that gives peace of mind and comfort in the knowledge that you won't be held to ransom by seemingly endless utility bills. Instead you benefit from exceptional savings, add value to your property and enjoy a much cleaner, greener home.

Eternal Energy Systems specialise in eco-friendly solar water and space heating installations – helping households save money and become more energy efficient.

Bruce Davis, who launched the business in October, 2006, said: "I wanted to start my own business and I wanted it to have a positive impact on the environment."

The company helps customers take control of their ever-increasing energy bills by providing renewable energy solutions that are environmentally friendly, ecologically sound and empowering.

Solar panel systems deliver energy directly to the home and will capture free energy for the next 25 years and more. Each system takes about three days to install.

The solar panels are normally roof mounted and can be integrated with most existing hot water systems. The panels require direct light to work, but even with the typical British weather; they get enough sunlight to harness 70 per cent of the energy needed to heat water each year, giving impressive annual savings with CO2 emissions reduced by 0.82 tonnes every year (based on a four-bedroom family house with five occupants).

Eternal Energy Systems is a real family affair, with Bruce carrying out each survey and supervising the installation, his daughter Samantha carrying out home inspections and compiling Energy Performance Certificates, and his wife running the showroom.

Personal attention to detail and competitive prices no doubt contribute to the success of Eternal Energy Systems, but changing attitudes to climate change and increased awareness of carbon footprints also play their part. The panels offer future energy security with no interruption to supply and free solar energy for life.

There are numerous reasons to invest in a solar energy system, including the fact the solar energy is not taxed and that the system will add value to a property. Householders can apply for a £400 government grant and will have peace of mind that their carbon dioxide emissions are significantly reduced.

Following the installation, Eternal Energy Systems continue to offer an aftercare service to fine tune each system on an annual basis, with maintenance for the system required just once every five years .

The company has Clear Skies Accreditation, enabling customers to claim government grants towards the cost and is a member of the Solar Trade Association.

Solar water heating is probably the most efficient, simple, cost-effective, government-funded, VAT-gifted, environmentally sound, un-intrusive, virtually maintenance free, way to lower fuel bills, help the environment and feel good at the same time (imagine being able to sunbathe every day of the year!).

With more and more people looking for alternative and eco-friendly ways to source and use energy, Eternal Energy Systems is set to grow from strength to strength.

Looking to the future, Bruce plans to extend the business to cover the whole of the South East and will add solar photovoltaics (panels that produce electricity) and other renewable energy systems, to the product range.

Residential businesses such as hotels, guest houses, retirement homes and campus accommodation can all benefit from solar energy, and to a far greater degree than domestic property. With multiple residents and guests these properties have much higher fuel bills for the provision of hot water/heating and can achieve significant cost savings with the opportunity to write off the capital cost against tax during the first year of installation.

Solar energy solutions -
save the planet... and your pocket!

At **Eternal Energy Systems** we are committed to provide the most efficient, affordable, practical solutions for every home and to empower each household to harness this endless flow of solar energy, delivered FREE, direct to your home at 186,282 miles per second, 365 days each year.

- FREE home survey for the first 75 callers
- The best quality systems, fully accredited with ALL grant schemes
- A system to improve and dovetail with your existing domestic arrangements
- Solar Panels with a 10 YEAR warranty that will perform for decades
- The most cost effective solution in the market
- Installed by LOCAL, qualified, experienced and careful technicians
- No high pressure sales techniques

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Phone **01227 26 26 99** today quoting **3energy4life** to arrange the **FREE** home survey.
Or visit us at the new showroom in Whitstable, behind Tesco Store at
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info@eternalenergysystems.co.uk
www.eternalenergysystems.co.uk
(Please phone ahead to check our opening hours)

BUSINESS success 2007

Blaze Neon

Signs looking good for firm's future



Blaze Neon has a skilled workforce and is one of the largest manufacturing resources in the UK

A SPECIALIST in bespoke signage, including the design, manufacture, installation and maintenance, Blaze Neon has been established since 1981.

The business began with just seven employees and a very modest facility in Broadstairs town centre.

Three of the original members of staff remain at Blaze Neon some 26 years later and a fourth has recently retired.

Today, there are 260 employees, including more than 40 pairs of installation/maintenance engineers based across the country.

Blaze Neon moved into their current facility in Pysons Road in 1991, then 40,000sq ft.

The company have expanded since, now occupying more than 135,000 sq ft, representing one of the largest manufacturing resources in the UK.

The newly acquired Active Sign Maintenance Ltd is also based here. 2005 saw the relocation of their Birmingham premises to their purpose built factory in Frankley.

The management team (pictured) are delighted that Blaze Neon continue to excel with high-volume, prestigious contracts for clients such as Tesco, Sainsbury, Royal Bank of Scotland, Halifax, Marks & Spencer, Argos, and DFS, to name a few!

Ongoing investment includes the installation of a new powder-coating plant and large format digital printers, to ensure that Blaze Neon remains at the forefront of the industry.

This year Blaze Neon has experienced an unusually large number of high-profile contracts for some existing and new clients.

These have included the rebrand from Virgin Megastores to Zavvi, the conversion of a number of Portman Building Societies to Nationwide Building Societies, the rebrand of 150 Swinton Insurance sites, 150 Going Places rebranded to Thomas Cook, the ongoing rebrand of Travel Inn to Premier Inn, 30 Nike concessions installed within JJB Sports, various attractions at Disneyland Paris, plus a contract in excess of £500,000 of wayfinding signs for the recently opened St Pancras Station, all on top of the day-to-day core business.

This will generate a projected turnover of £21 million, including the recent acquisition of Active Sign Maintenance Ltd and demonstrates that Blaze Neon can only go on to even bigger and better things and will continue to go from strength to strength.

Blaze Neon, Pysons Road, Broadstairs, tel 01843 601075; Active Sign Maintenance Ltd, Units 3 & 4 Anson Close, Pysons Road, Broadstairs, tel 01843 580801.

For more details visit at www.blazeneon.com.

BLAZE



BLAZE

Blaze Neon Limited • Patricia Way • Pysons Road • Broadstairs • Kent • CT10 2XZ

01843 601075 • blaze@blazeneon.com • www.blazeneon.com

BUSINESS success 2007

Blaze Neon

The company with its name proudly in lights









Blaze Neon's management team (top right) have overseen the company's growth, which has many high-profile clients and has undergone significant expansion



T-Mobile · NatWest · Sainsbury's · M&S
Argos extra · HSBC · Nationwide
TESCO · HOMEBASE · YAMAHA · Hotel Chocolat · Chelsea Football Club







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BUSINESS success 2007

Medisaun

Feel healthy heat with an infra-red home sauna

INFRA-RED saunas are medically proven to be good for your body, relaxation and re-energising. They are used by people of all ages throughout the world, and in many countries have become an integral part of people's daily routine.

In the UK, however, it has taken longer for people to understand not only the health and lifestyle benefits of infra-red saunas but also the affordability and practically of them. In many people's mind, saunas are large and expensive luxuries found in health and leisure facilities and not something that you could use every day at home. Well, that perception is changing in the UK market with several companies offering affordable and practical saunas to be used daily at home.

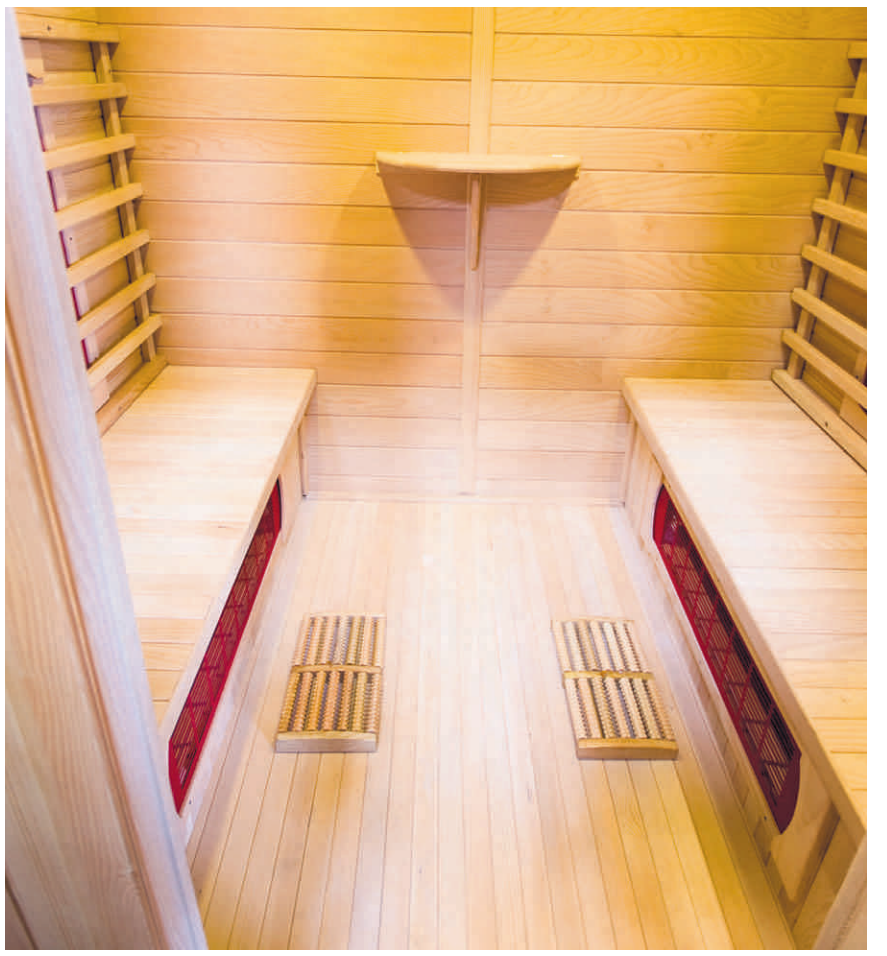
Medisaun, www.medisaun.co.uk, has been helping to educate and show its customers over the last few years that infra-red saunas not only have significant health benefits, but are practical and affordable for most people. Run by Steve and Lita Driver as a family business, they have been slowly growing a successful business based on people experiencing these benefits and telling others.

One of Medisaun's customers, has experienced first-hand the health benefits of the sauna. He said: "I am a practicing doctor and have suffered with arthritis for the last few years. I have been taking the standard medication to limited effect, but when I started using an infra-red sauna for half an hour each night before I go to bed it has eased my pain, and given me a much better sleep. The sauna has been invaluable to my health."

Infra-red saunas heat the skin differently. A traditional coal sauna creates heat which causes you to sweat, with the heat not reaching the bones, while an infra-red sauna heats your skin heats differently, eliminating the sweating and offering a deeper heat to the bones and muscles, aiding ailments such as arthritis.

These saunas come in different shapes and sizes and are designed to fit into your front room or conservatory. They plug straight into your existing plug socket and require no wiring. They are only turned on when used so they are energy efficient, particularly when compared to traditional saunas. As part of the Medisaun service, the saunas are delivered and fitted into your home, whilemost saunas are easily movable at any point.

The benefits of infra-red saunas are obvious, and they promise to be a bigger part of our routine as their affordability and practicality becomes understood by more people. For details about infra-red saunas visit www.medisaun.co.uk.





Christmas is going to be warm this year

Go ahead and treat yourself to something special this Christmas. Medisaun infrared home sauna makes the perfect present to splash out on.

You, your family and your friends will reap the benefit all year round. You're worth it! Besides, who are you counting on - Santa?







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INFRARED SAUNAS
Relaxing has never been so good for you

EASY TO INSTALL • NO PLUMBING REQUIRED • ECONOMICAL TO RUN

Call 0871 423 5975 or 01634 329466 Find us online: www.medisaun.co.uk

Our range of saunas can also be viewed at Gillingham Hot Tub centre in **Wyevale Garden Centre, Capstone Road.**

BUSINESS success 2007

Kent International Hotel





Hotel goes from strength to strength

IN September last year, GE Link Ltd was formed from the breakdown of the Swallow chain, forming a small collective of hotels within the UK, one of these being Kent International Hotel, which has grown to become one of the leading hotels in the Thanet area.

The hotel was originally opened in July 1988 by the former prime minister, Sir Edward Heath, who was born in Broadstairs.

Today, the hotel holds 55 bedrooms over three floors, 19 of them refurbished in the summer of 2007.

Executive rooms are located on the third floor and all rooms have an iron and ironing board, tea and coffee making facilities and en suite facilities.

In October this year, all the rooms were installed with plasma televisions which have movie and internet packages to upgrade to.

The hotel's 40-seater restaurant boasts a talented head chef while the hotel bar holds a superb selection of wine and a wide selection of beers and spirits

Check-in time is from 2pm and check-out is at 11am. On Sunday, the hotel offers a late check-out of 3pm for customers who dine in The Atrium Restaurant for lunch.

Non-residents can sample the delights of The Atrium Restaurant, which is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Non-residents are also able to use the bar, which serves a tasty bar menu and is open from 11am to 11pm.

There is a constant flow of major developments throughout the hotel, with the new arrival of the executive floor, progress has now moved onto the restaurant.

With the closure of the leisure facilities in August, the hotel has decided to extend the Atrium Restaurant through to the old leisure centre, extending the covers to 60 with the addition of a cocktail bar offering a fresh modern feel.

Once complete, a conference centre will be added with a bar to update the facilities for both weddings and conferences. Once work on the conference centre is complete, work will commence in the bar area, which will extend the length of the hotel and will incorporate a new entrance on Harbour Parade.

Kent International Hotel is well known for its wedding and conference facilities and is approved to hold Civil Ceremonies and Civil Partnerships with guests up to 110.

Commenting on the success of the hotel, managing director, Malcolm Purnell, said: "The business is a great success because of the service we give to our guests, residents and non-residents alike. With all the work that is proposed for the hotel, we are sure it will be Thanet's Premier Hotel."

Kent International Hotel

Open to non-residents, serving bar food, lunches & dinner in our Atrium restaurant 10-2pm and 6.30-9pm
Look out for our newly refurbished bar in the New Year with fantastic views of the Marina
Coming soon other changes including our newly refurbished restaurant.

Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8LZ
Tel: 01843 588276
www.kentinternationalhotel.co.uk

THE Kent International





BUSINESS success 2007

SureSlim

Weight loss plan tailored to help you



WITH the help of SureSlim, Susanne Trokhymenko lost three stones in weight, which transformed her life and inspired her to set up her own SureSlim clinic.

SureSlim was founded in South Africa 10 years ago and has been in the UK for seven years. Susanne opened her clinic in Folkestone on February 1, 2007.

The SureSlim system offers the only truly medical eating plan that corrects glucose metabolism by balancing the hormones responsible for weight control.

The blood test results are reviewed by the SureSlim doctor, together with food dislikes, medication and medical history, to produce an eating plan specific to the individual.

The eating plan draws upon a number of ideas about weight loss and nutrition.

Low glycaemic index foods, low saturated fats food, fruit, vegetables and seeds are all incorporated to compile a healthy nutritionally balanced eating plan.

The plan does not count calories, it looks at the nutritional content of the food.

The plan is designed to stimulate or suppress hormones, which helps rebalance glucose metabolism and results in rapid weight loss – a minimum of 10lb per month.

Susanne herself ended up on the SureSlim eating plan after trying numerous other methods of weight loss, including spending hours at the gym, but with no results.

A friend of Susanne's mentioned her mother had lost weight on the SureSlim programme by eating normal foods.

Susanne was curious to learn more and discovered that SureSlim is a medically backed organisation with an individual approach to weight loss.

This prompted Susanne to make an appointment at the Tunbridge Wells Clinic, where she started her plan within two weeks of having a blood test.

Susanne said: "I did have my doubts and thought I would be the one to prove the programme didn't work.

"I received weekly one-to-one support and within four months had lost three stone."

The results have given Susanne a newfound confidence and directly led to her opening the Folkestone SureSlim clinic.

Once a target weight has been achieved, clients enter the Lifestyle stage of the programme when they are supported with a further two months to help identify trigger foods and adapt a healthier approach to eating.

Special programmes are also available and are tailored for pregnancy, breastfeeding, children and teens, religious (Hindu, Muslim and kosher), and vegan and vegetarians.

SureSlim Folkestone has more than 110 clients and has taken on a new consultant to keep up with demand.

Susanne explains why the Folkestone branch is so popular: "Because the plan is individualised and there is a maintenance programme which works – there's no more losing weight and then putting it back on again.

"We offer a good one-to-one service and care very much about our clients.

"Weight and health are personal issues so it's also important for clients to know they can trust us and count on discretion. Obesity is not a laughing matter.

"Although many clients aren't obese, they are very conscious of being overweight".

An 'Ezi-Pay' payment plan is available which allows clients to spread the cost of the plan up to nine months

Susanne concludes: "As we see other clinics open in the area, we hope the name will become synonymous with health and lifestyle change and that many people will benefit from the various SureSlim programmes."

To find out more please call SureSlim Folkestone on 01303 856128.

The clinic re-opens after the festivities on January 3, 2008. Alternatively email Folkestone@sureslimuk.com or visit www.sureslimuk.com for your closest clinic.



"I don't have any weight to lose but want to learn to eat for good health. Will SureSlim teach me how to eat correctly based on my personal medical results, food allergies or dislikes and my lifestyle?"

SureWill

The scientific approach to weight and wellness

SureSlim gives you an individual program that is based on a medical analysis of your body, your medical history, food preferences, allergies and lifestyle – no 'one size fits all' approaches, no guesswork, no gimmicks. We tailor a scientifically balanced eating plan to stimulate your metabolism and get you looking and feeling better, faster.

Lose those extra kilos for life. Drop the dress size you promised yourself. Kick start your life!

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Can I enrol my child on the SureSlim program?
SureCan

BUSINESS success 2007

Kumon Educational UK

Complementing and enriching each child's education

KUMON Educational UK – maths and English After-School Programme courses available.

Every parent wants their child to enjoy school, do well and go on to lead a happy and successful life.

However, one of the ongoing issues at school is making sure that all children are working at the right pace and level for them. Some pupils are ready to move on faster than others.

Consequently, struggling children often get left behind and able children aren't stretched enough. Many parents are now looking beyond school for effective ways to ensure their child is working at a suitable level.

Kumon Educational, one of the leading supplementary education providers in the UK, offers maths and English after-school study programmes designed to help children of all ages and abilities to fulfil their potential.

Kumon study helps children to get to grips with calculation skills and mental arithmetic without using calculators, and improves children's spelling and grammar whilst building a love for reading.

Programmes are tailored to individuals and Kumon Instructors know their students well, setting work for each child on an individual basis to ensure they progress at their optimal rate.

Struggling children are given the practice they need to learn the basics, but there are also many benefits for gifted students or those that just want to be challenged further.





Kumon Educational offers after-school programmes in maths and English

Kumon removes the traditional parameters of the school curriculum, enabling these children to advance quickly, very often to a level beyond their school age group.

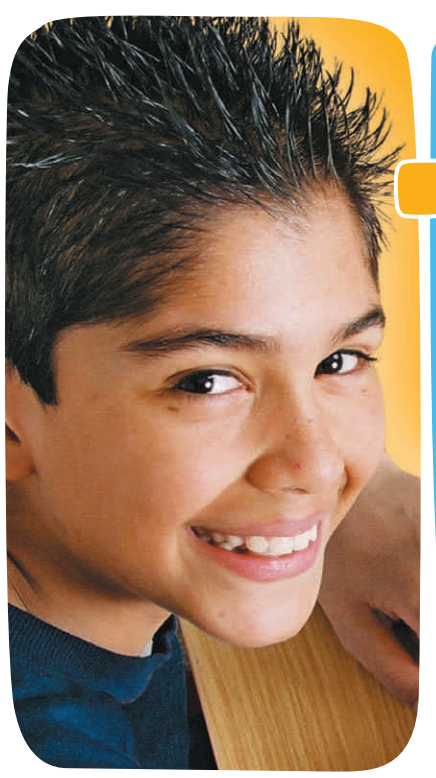
Studying on Kumon's advanced levels allows children not only to excel at maths or English in school but also frees up their time to dedicate to other subjects.

Kumon after-school programmes operate throughout the whole year and encourage children to complete a small amount of work every day.

Kumon study equips children with essential independent learning skills, so that they feel comfortable at school and confident in their ability to tackle work across the entire school curriculum.

In previous years parents may not have thought to look outside of school for supplementary study. But today, thousands of supportive parents see Kumon as an effective way to ensure their child reaches their full potential.

For further information about how Kumon may be able to help your child contact 0800 854 714 or visit www.kumon.co.uk.



Realise your **child's** potential

Maths and English After-School Programmes

Kumon programmes:

- work at a pace that is tailored to your child's needs
- develop invaluable study habits and concentration
- establish a solid foundation for academic success
- complement the school curriculum

Contact your local Instructor today.

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Janet Gleeson
BEARSTED
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KUMON
Every child can shine

BUSINESS success 2007

Canterbury Koi and Aquatics

Expanding business for all your fish needs

CANTERBURY Koi and Aquatics is owned and managed by Philip Norris who took over the business five years ago when it was known as Field Aquatic Nursery.

Until Philip took over, the shop had specialised in tropical and pond fish only, but now has a more extensive collection on offer including tropical, pond and marine life such as fish, corals, starfish, crabs, shrimps and urchins.

Having been established for 20 years, Philip wanted to offer more choice to his customers, so the building was extended and given a facelift.

The marine section was added in June, 2002, and has 35 tanks housing tropical marine fish, invertebrates and live rock.

There is also a 200 gallon display tank housing a happy, healthy reef community.

For tropical freshwater aquaria there is a huge selection of community, oddball and cichlid species – 300 tanks in total. There is also a 40 gallon tiered aquatic plant display system.

Coldwater pond fish are in abundance in two large outdoor display systems comprising a total of 19 tanks and situated in the large garden area at the rear of the shop.

Goldfish, shubunkins, blue and golden orfe, ghost koi, green and golden tench are just a few examples of the selection available.

Customers will also find everything they need for fish keeping and maintenance such as pumps and filters, pet food, and aquariums.

Canterbuy Koi and Aquatics take pride in the quality of stock they sell and are on hand to offer expert advice.

Looking to the future, Philip plans to expand the products and service available.

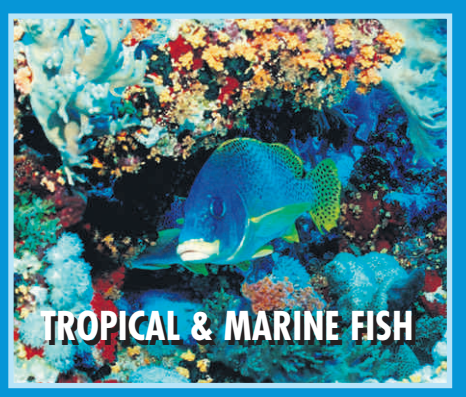








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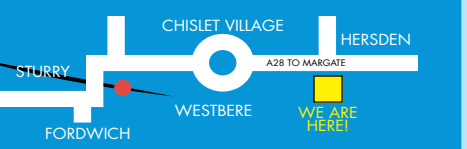
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HOW TO FIND US:



BUSINESS success 2007

Folkestone Sports Centre

Sports centre plans a £4m refurbishment

FOLKESTONE Sports Centre Trust Ltd was conceived in 1965 and following successful fund raising and grant receipts, the sports centre was born.

Building work commenced in 1967 and the facility was opened in 1972 by Princess Anne, offering both dry and wet sports activities to the community.

The centre was set up by the Trustees to make affordable sports available to residents in the Folkestone district. At the time there were no other facilities available in Folkestone and the outdoor pool was closing.

Visitors to the centre will find a superb range of facilities including a swimming pool, indoor sports hall, squash courts, dry ski slope, golf course, skatepark, tennis/football facilities, toning chairs and therapy centre, fitness centre, relaxation suite, cafe and bar, and crèche.

Ski and snowboard enthusiasts can opt for private or group lessons as well as a selection of courses. The ski slope also offers tobogganing for fun seekers of all ages.

In addition to such a fantastic range of sporting facilities, visitors benefit from free parking and 'Leisure Passport' rates are available for frequent users.

The centre boasts a team of highly qualified and experienced staff and a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

The process of moving the centre forward is underway with the successful bid for £57,403 to the Big Lottery – People's Millions win, which will enable a dedicated toboggan slope and a young people's fitness gym to be added early in the new year. This is set to encourage more young people to become more active for their future health.

Future plans for the centre include a substantial refurbishment and modernisation including increasing the size of the fitness centre and the addition of more fun exercise activities for young people. Other plans include refurbishment of the changing facilities and the addition of a golf target range. The £4 million project is planned to take place within the next two years.

Folkestone Sports Centre is located at Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone and can be contacted on 01303 850222. Alternatively, visit the website at www.folkestonesportscentre.co.uk.









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FOLKESTONE SPORTS CENTRE

BUSINESS success 2007

J&J Recruitment

J&J RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS

Clients will get the very best possible service

J&J RECRUITMENT was founded by Peter Johnson in the spring of 2006.

Having secured premises in his home town of Herne Bay, Peter initially began trading mostly in the transport and industrial sectors.

It wasn't long before Peter was joined by several former colleagues from a previous agency, along with other experienced consultants.

Today, little more than 12 months later, Peter has four branches offering a comprehensive solution to most employment areas.

Having branched out into other areas including industrial, logistical, commercial, catering and engineering, the team places people in both temporary and permanent employment.

In addition to three new branches, the company also has a fleet of minibuses that are used to take staff to and from work.

With a dedicated team of specialist and tenacious staff, clients looking for a job will receive the very best service possible to ensure they are placed in a position that is right for them.

In addition to keeping their existing clients happy, Peter plans to open more offices and diversify into other disciplines.

J&J Recruitment Ltd would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

J&J Recruitment is situated at: 22 William Street Herne Bay, 01227 369922; 33a St George's Place, Canterbury, 01227 457425; 1 Watling Street, Chatham, 01634 854691; 194 Dover Road, Folkestone, 01303 226262.





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The Consultants and Managers at J and J Recruitment Ltd would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

J&J RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS

BUSINESS success 2007

Avery Interiors

Our great dedication to service and excellence

AVERY Interiors are specialists in made-to-measure curtains, pelmets, and all types of blinds from Roman to Venetian. Customers will also find plantation shutters as well as lighting, gifts, and a wide range of fabrics, paints, cushions, net curtains, voiles plus a track pole fitting service.

Managing director, Bill Illingworth launched the business in 1980 in Eltham, where he started with just himself in a tiny shop measuring 28ft by 15ft. It wasn't long before Bill expanded the store into the property next door, which trebled the size.

Bill purchased the shop in West Wickham just two years later while the Whitstable branch opened on October 18 this year.

Today, the Eltham branch is run by his son Jack while the West Wickham branch is run by his wife Tina.

Since its inception in 1980, the business has enjoyed a meteoric rise. In the late 1980s Avery Interiors worked with a number of developers in the South East to help design and install the interiors of their show homes. This helped to build on the company's already excellent reputation, which remains today.

Customers benefit from a free estimation and measuring service and a team of specialist track fitters who will not only fit a rail but will also hang and fit curtains.

Testament to the company's excellent service is the fact customers return time and again. Their expert advice and depth and knowledge of each product contributes to the success of the company.

- The Whitstable branch is at 67-73 Oxford Street and can be contacted on 01227 772707.
- The West Wickham branch is at 56 High Street and can be contacted on 0208 7774319.
- The Eltham branch is at 210-214 High Street and can be contacted on 0208 8596126.



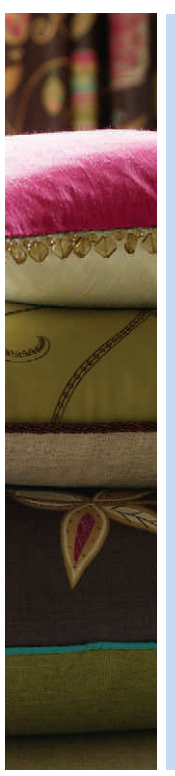












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BUSINESS success 2007

Royal School for Deaf Children Margate

When mainstream education is no longer an option

Since the Royal School for Deaf Children Margate was founded in 1792, it has adapted to reflect the increasingly complex range of disabilities affecting children and young people. Many deaf children are now included in mainstream education.

The school's deaf pupils and young adults have additional needs which include multi-sensory impairment and emotional, behavioural and communication difficulties.

Many of its learners are on the autistic spectrum. The school, and its further education department, Westgate College and Community Adult Learning Programme, provide individual educational and social programmes tailored to the potential of each pupil, from the age of three to 25.

Some college students also attend Thanet College, which has a base room and some of the school's pupils attend Kent County Council's Thanet Skills Studio.

Consistent high standards and innovative learning programmes have earned the school a reputation as a centre for excellence for specialist residential education. It currently provides 24-hour residential care for more than 160 pupils.

WESTGATE COLLEGE: Students studying for NVQs and other nationally accredited vocational and work-based qualifications at Westgate College.

Deaf pupils live in Westcliff House, a Victorian building over several floors, which has limited wheelchair access and no longer meets their complex needs.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Disability Discrimination Act regulations could force it to close if it does not provide accommodation fit for purpose.

This would be a tragedy for the students as there is no other educational establishment in the South East to meet their needs.

To date, the college has raised £2.5 million towards the £4.5m required to replace Westcliff House with purpose-built accommodation within the school's main Victoria Road site.

In addition to the added security of retaining its facilities within one location, it will give students constant access to the specialist equipment they need, including the medical centre.

MONKSHILL FARM: Many of the students enjoy projects centred around the school's farm at Dargate. Monkshill Farm is a real working farm, offering placements for a wide range of learners, including D/deaf, hearing and additional needs students.







DEVELOPMENT: The Royal School for Deaf Children provides individual educational programmes tailored to the potential of each pupil

Its courses and facilities provide a variety of options to suit learners. These include Skills for Working Life, NVQ and NPTC courses in animal care, land-based courses and also work experience and apprenticeships.

Many mainstream and special schools and FE Colleges also use the farm's facilities.

The Community Adult Learning Programme provides a warm, caring and communication-rich environment where each individual is valued, respected and able to learn to lead a full stimulating and independent life.

Developments in technology mean that increasing numbers of children with complex disabilities now survive into adulthood.

The Royal School for Deaf Children's aim is to help them to achieve their full potential and enjoy life to the full.

If you would like a prospectus to learn more about the courses available at the school, Westgate College and the community Adult Learning Programme, call Ann Brough on 01843 227561.

Times change
and we change with them

Since our foundation more than two centuries ago as the first UK school for deaf pupils, the needs of our pupils have significantly changed.

For our children and young adults, mainstream education is simply not an option.

We aim to help them reach their full potential by building confidence and letting them know that they are valued, special and cared for.

We currently provide 24-hour residential care for more than 160 pupils who are profoundly deaf with additional needs such as multi-sensory impairment and emotional, behavioural and communication difficulties. Many are on the autistic spectrum.

To date, we have raised £2.5 million towards the £4.5 million required to replace Westcliff House, a Victorian building which no longer meets the complex needs of our residents.







If you share our passion to help our young people to achieve their goals and would like to find out how to make a donation, please telephone Amanda Croft-Pearman on 01843 227561

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Royal School for Deaf Children Margate *Working towards a positive future for deaf children and young people*

BUSINESS success 2007

Barretts Citroen

Let us show you what a Citroen can really do



THE BARRETTS Group was established by the Barretts family in 1902, becoming though the years one of Kent's largest motor dealership groups.

Barretts Citroen was launched in the year 2000.

Visitors to the showroom will find a superb selection of new and used Citroen cars. Barretts also offers the Motability Scheme, a leading car scheme for disabled people. Customers will also find a large collection of vans with a specialist on hand to talk to business customers.

The company has moved into a site by the Westgate Towers in Canterbury The undercover site offers a pleasant environment for customers to see the vast collection of vehicles.

The site is also home to Seat and Jaguar, of which Barretts are main franchisees.

In addition to Citroen, customers will find a selection of used Seats and Jaguars.

The established sales team have over five years of Citroen experience under their belts and offer a professional yet friendly service to clients.

Testament to the quality of service and vehicles offered is that repeat business makes up a large proportion of business.

General sales manager, John Halliday, explained that Citroen is a fantastic product that is ever improving, which no doubt has helped the business to enjoy such success.

Currently, the most popular Citroen vehicles at Barretts include the Xsara Picasso and the C1 ranges. The C-Crosser, Citroen's first 4x4 has just been launched while the forthcoming C5 will be launched in March.

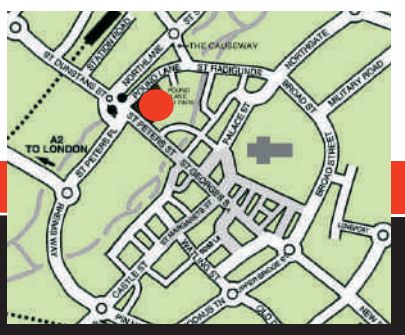
John Halliday and his staff look forward to seeing you soon to show you what Citroen can do for you..

Barrett Citroen is open from 8.30am-6pm Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday.



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BUSINESS success 2007

Class Cars







Quality care for your quality car

INDEPENDENT Mercedes-Benz and Porsche specialist, Class Cars is situated at new premises in Wingham near Canterbury.

Originally based in Eastry, the company moved to due to a requirement for larger and improved premises, allowing them to serve clients to a higher standard than already set.

The company is a partnership between Steve and Maggie Ackrill. Steve has more than 30 years technical experience of performance and prestige vehicles while Maggie deals with administration and is the first point of contact for customers whether by telephone, email or in person.

Established 10 years ago, Class Cars has become the place to go for performance and prestige car owners who wish to have their cars maintained and serviced without paying main dealer prices.

In 2001, Class Cars concentrated their efforts and resources and specialised in Mercedes-Benz and more recently Porsche. There is a team of highly skilled staff offering a very high standard of workmanship at affordable prices.

Class Cars have been servicing, repairing and upgrading Mercedes-Benz and Porsche cars for 10 years. The new site on the A257, between Canterbury and Sandwich, is fully equipped to offer servicing to manufacturers recommended schedules using genuine parts and Mobil lubricants.

Class Cars have both the Mercedes-Benz Star Tester and Porsche PST2 diagnostic systems – these manufacturer supplied tools enables Class Cars to offer main dealer levels of system testing and fault diagnosis. The company's latest acquisition is the Hunter DSP600 Imaging Four-Wheel Aligner System. This state-of-the-art equipment carries Mercedes-Benz and Porsche approval enabling Class Cars to adjust suspension settings to the optimum to prevent uneven tyre wear, steering pull or resetting alignment after having a suspension upgrade package fitted.

The company holds a large stock of genuine Mercedes-Benz and Porsche parts covering all that is likely to be required for routine servicing so if a car requires new brake discs and pads, after seeking customer approval, the work can usually be carried out the same day. All cars are washed before being handed back to the customer and a full valet service is available if required.

Class Cars are agents for Revo Technik performance software and can offer power upgrades for Porsche and all VAG Group vehicles. They are also agents for Carlsson Mrecedes-Benz tuning products and Bilstein Suspension Kits.

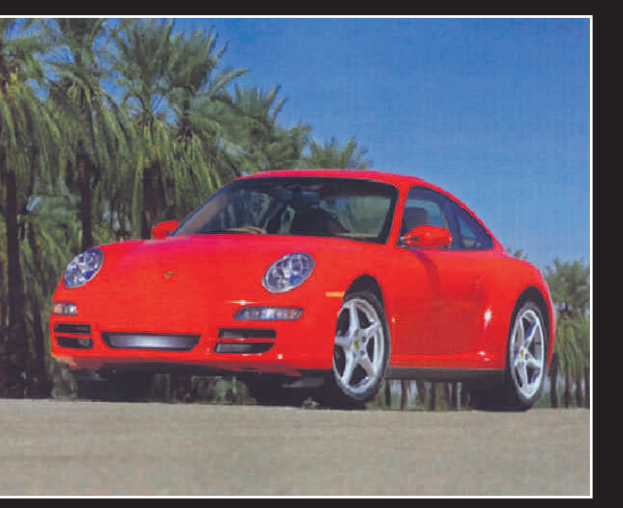
As from the New Year, Class Cars will offer servicing and repairs to all Smart Cars along with the opening of their Smartzone showroom for the sale of Smart cars and accessories.

For further information call 01227 723980 or visit the website at www.classcarscanterbury.co.uk.

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- Retail, Wholesale, Sales
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- Liase with Freight companies to optimise contract quality & costs

Requirements:

- AutoCAD Experience
- Technical aptitude
- Good communication skills
- Well developed time management skills
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office - Outlook/Word/Excel

In return for these challenging opportunities we offer an excellent working environment, training, a competitive salary & benefits.

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Applicants would have some experience of sourcing transport and grouping deliveries efficiently as well as basic PC skills.

Please submit a C.V to Sue Hinder, Human Resources, Howard Hunt Group, Bridge House, Edisons Park, Dartford, Kent DA2 6QP or email CV (word format) to sueh@howardhuntgroup.com

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

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Responsible for the procurement function within the company, proven experience and ideally come from a manufacturing background.

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AFTER SCHOOL CLUB DEVELOPMENT WORKER

Hours: 35 hours per week Salary: £16,380 per annum
To develop and implement new services at the After School Club for children aged 5 -11 years. Will also be required to work with parents and local families. Experience in community development work an advantage.
Must be qualified to Advanced Certificate in Playwork: NVQ Level 3 in Childcare or equivalent.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB SUPERVISOR

Hours: 35 hours per week Salary: £14,560 per annum
To work as part of the team running an After School Club for 5 - 11 year olds. To liaise with the Development Worker in the development of the club and staff.
Must be qualified to Advanced Certificate in Playwork: NVQ Level 3 in Childcare or equivalent.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB DEPUTY SUPERVISOR

Hours: 19.5 hours per week Salary: £7,098 per annum
To work as part of a team and to assist the Supervisor in the running of the After School Club.
Must be qualified at Certificate in Playwork: NVQ Level 2 in Childcare or equivalent.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PLAYWORKER - 2 POSTS

Hours: 16.25 hours per work Salary: £5,070 per annum
To work in the After School Club and share in the development of resources for 5 - 11 year olds.

All posts require some flexibility and are subject to a CRB check.
CLOSING DATE: 21st December 2007

For more information and application pack, please contact:
Vanessa Rayner - Manager
Telephone: (01843) 221325 • Fax: (01843) 299828
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You'll manage a team of technicians responsible for the MOT and service programmes of our fleet. It will be down to you to ensure that repairs are carried out cost-effectively without compromising quality. The role will involve liaising with other departments to schedule maintenance activity, working closely with our Workshop Manager to maintain accurate records and sourcing parts from suppliers.

An experienced mechanic with City and Guilds 1, 2, 3 Vehicle Technician or equivalent, CITB/City and Guilds Refrigeration/Gas Handling, IRTEC and LGV C+E driving licence, you'll be a proven team manager who can lead by example. A professional commercial vehicle engineering qualification (to MIRTE level) is also essential, as are good interpersonal and IT skills.

As a Partner in our business, you can look forward to an excellent profit sharing scheme, which this year was equivalent to nine weeks' pay. We also offer discounts in Waitrose and John Lewis stores, pension scheme, free life assurance, subsidised educational, leisure and sporting activities, subsidised meals and five weeks' holiday after three years' service.

To apply, please send your CV, quoting reference VM1, to Debbie Read, Assistant Personnel Manager Supply Chain, Waitrose Ltd, Southern Industrial Area, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8YA.
Closing date: 11th January 2008.

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1. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd ("the publisher") reserves the right of any advertisement without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
2. Guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the publishers shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy in the printing of an advertisement or by the total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any publication in which an advertisement is scheduled to appear. In no case shall the total liability of the publisher for any misprint, error or omission exceed the price charged by the publisher for that advertisement.
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 b) In the event that payment is not received by the Publishers by the due date, the Publisher shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract.
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 d) Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of the Publisher (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
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 f) Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
13. Any discount which the Publisher may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
14. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
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16. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify both the publisher and the Group in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the Publisher or any of the companies within the Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of the advertisement.
17. Order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, phase 2 of which completes at the end of 2007. We are now developing the plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

CAPITAL PROJECT MANAGER

37 hrs per week, salary: c£70,000 per annum Post ref: CPM1/KoS

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the redevelopment project, ensuring that it is delivered on time, within budget, and in accordance with the design brief and targets.
Leading the project on behalf of the College, you will direct, co-ordinate and supervise the project in association with the College's Senior Management Team, Project Team and consultants.
Responsible for ensuring that the overall project programme can be approved by the Corporation and all activities are completed within defined parameters, you will also prepare the Estates Working Party papers in liaison with the Principal and the Clerk to the Corporation.
You will recommend and secure approval for any modifications of variation to the agreed brief, and will advise the Corporation on overall risk and exposure through the Capital programme.
You will be responsible for all aspects of financial management in liaison with the College's Director of Finance and Corporate Services, including monitoring of cashflow against College plans, all forms of asset management, including tenders, procurement and leasing options, and achieving best value in line with LSC guidelines.

To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, such as a Postgraduate qualification in project management, or equivalent experience of public sector construction. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate detailed understanding of the financial and contractual management of construction projects, and the ability to think strategically to lead and advocate on complex projects. You will also have negotiation skills, and the ability to work to deadlines and to lead and motivate a team.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit **www.cant-col.ac.uk** or call the Personnel Office on **01227 811282** (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.
The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include

- Pensions and LIfe Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Close to City Centre
- Proximity to main bus/train stations
- Staff discount scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

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Canterbury College

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Estate & Building Services Manager

37 hrs per week, salary: £44,149 - £49,875 per annum Post ref: EBSM1/KoS
Interview Date: Tuesday 22 January 2008.

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to ensure that College sites are fully utilised, maintained and enhanced, to provide an optimum learning and working environment for all users.
You will have the opportunity to produce, update and develop the College's property and accommodation strategies, and will prepare maintenance and small buildings works programmes and schedules.
You will lead on health and safety strategy and policy, and ensure the provision and maintenance of effective fire precautions, security systems and safety arrangements. Assisting the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in the preparation of relevant capital and revenue budgets, you will also manage the department's budgets and service contracts, and line manage the Estates team.
You will develop and manage the College's energy management policy, advise on the use of professional services in connection with estates services, and will take responsibility for buildings & grounds maintenance and security for the insurance of the premises and assets.

To be successful, you will have a relevant professional qualification such as RICS, RIBA, MBIFM, or MIMechE, as well as professional qualifications in the area of Estates Management. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate considerable and successful estates management experience. You will have demonstrable experience of managing change with a commitment to continuous improvement, as well as having direct experience of line managing staff, budgets and resource management.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, have a high level of interpersonal skills and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit **www.cant-col.ac.uk** or call the Personnel Office on **01227 811282** (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.
The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include

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Closing date: 7 January 2008
To apply/more information
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Warren Wood community Primary School and language unit
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UR
Telephone - (01634) 337227
Email trimk001@medway.org.uk

Hoo St Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre
KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full or part time and temporary
Term of contract: To cover maternity leave
Required From: January 2008
Closing date: 3 January 2008
To apply/more information
Jo Trickett, Headteacher
Hoo St Werburgh Primary school & Marlborough Centre
Pottery Road
Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9BS
Telephone - (01634) 338040
Email office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk

Thames View Junior School
KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Part time and temporary
Required From: 25 February 2008
Closing date: 10 January 2008
To apply/more information
Linda Lowrey, Headteacher
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HEAD OF CARE AND REDUCING RE-OFFENDING
£29,184 - £43,927

As a key member of the Senior Management Team, you will be tasked with developing, implementing and managing the arrangements for the reduction of re-offending. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a new team providing innovative solutions for young people in custody to provide a safe environment for them and to help them break the cycle of re-offending.
It is essential that you have a sound knowledge of the resettlement needs of young people being released from custody and a good working knowledge of safeguarding processes. Extensive experience of working with young people is essential and also of managing a multi-disciplinary team. Social work qualifications are desirable.

CHILD PROTECTION – CO-ORDINATOR
£23,434 - £30,676

By providing Child Protection advice, guidance and practical support, you will ensure the prison is a safe and child focused environment for the young people.
As the main point of contact within the establishment for Child Protection matters, you will advise the Governor, Senior Management Team and other staff on Child Protection policy and practice.
It is essential that you hold or be working towards a Social Work qualification and have knowledge of Child Protection legislation and operation in a multi-agency arena. You should also possess an understanding of the complex issues faced by young people in custody. Experience of working with or in a child protection team is desirable, as is experience of policy and procedure writing.

CASEWORK TEAM LEADER
£23,434 - £30,676

We require a Team Leader, preferably with casework management experience, to manage the Casework Team who are responsible for the provision of a co-ordinated range of resettlement services for both remand and convicted young people at Cookham Wood and effective resettlement outcomes.
You must be able to work in a logical, methodical and organised manner. An understanding of risk-led sentence management and the Youth Justice System, both in the community and in custody is desirable together with knowledge of e-ASSET and the Wiring up Youth Justice Programme.

NURSE
£19,288 - £23,293

A nurse with post-registration experience is needed to provide offenders with nursing and healthcare services that promote self care, personal well being and that will enable them to take responsibility for their own health. You must be able to work autonomously within a prison setting and supervise junior members of the team. With evidence of continuing professional development, it is desirable that you have skills in phlebotomy, suturing, triage and minor injuries/illnesses, chronic disease management and experience of working with those that self-harm and crisis intervention for primary care mental health.

CLEANER
£11,371 - £11,716

To carry out cleaning services around the prison including carpeted areas, desks, bins and toilets, maintaining a high standard and taking into account Health and Safety issues. Experience is preferable but not essential.

Completed applications should be returned to James Restall, Kent & Sussex Areas Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3PZ Tel: 01634 673036 Fax: 01634 673050. Closing date for the return of completed applications is 2nd January 2008.

This post is open to part-time and job share applicants. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist. The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

NOMS National Offender Management Service
Working together to reduce re-offending

HM PRISON SERVICE
Public Sector Prisons

Kent County Council

Sure Start Children's Centres are at the heart of the Government's strategy to give every child the very best start in life.

Currently, there are 22 Sure Start Children's Centres across Kent, offering children under five and their families access to services and support that includes high-quality early education and day care, family support and health services, training and job information. Building on this significant success, Kent County Council is committed to opening a further 52 centres between now and the end of 2008.

We are now looking for enthusiastic and highly motivated people who can contribute to making a positive impact for children, families and their communities.

Children's Centre Community Involvement Workers

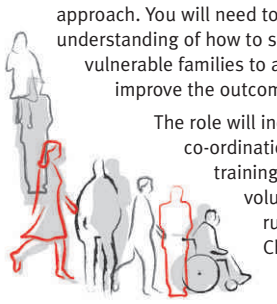
£19,572 - £22,268

Thanet (ref CFE/07/0489)
Gravesham (ref CFE/07/0490)
Canterbury (ref CFE/07/0491)
Ashford (ref CFE/07/0492)
Tonbridge & Malling (ref CFE/07/0493)
Maidstone (ref CFE/07/0494)
Shepway (Dymchurch) (ref CFE/07/0495)

We are seeking to recruit Community Involvement Workers to work in a number of Children's Centres across Kent. The successful candidates will work as part of multi-agency teams, raising awareness in the community about the range of services on offer in the centres. For those families who do not use the Children's Centres, you will provide important information and access to services. You will ensure that the views of children and their families and those of the wider community are sought and included in the development of services in the Children's Centres.

You will need to have strong interpersonal skills with an enthusiastic, tactful and flexible approach. You will need to demonstrate a clear understanding of how to support the most vulnerable families to access services to improve the outcomes for children.

The role will include the co-ordination of the recruitment, training and management of volunteers to support the running of the Children's Centre.



A great place to work.
Our services aren't the same, so neither are our people.

Children's Centre Managers

£29,190 - £34,507

Dartford (ref CFE/07/0482)
Tunbridge Wells (ref CFE/07/0483)
Tonbridge & Malling (ref CFE/07/0484)
Sevenoaks (ref CFE/07/0485)
Maidstone (ref CFE/07/0486)
Ashford (ref CFE/07/0487)
Swale (ref CFE/07/0488)

We are seeking to appoint Children's Centre Managers in a number of Children's Centres across Kent. You will need to lead an integrated team to work in partnership with parents and carers and a range of partners and organisations across Kent to meet the specific needs of children under five and their families.

With a degree, or equivalent qualification in health, social work, education, community work, childcare or a similar field, you must be able to lead a multi-agency service, demonstrating excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Successful candidates will have the National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership or be willing to work towards this qualification.

Both posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To find out more please contact Stacey Joyce on 01622 626685 or email: stacey.joyce@kent.gov.uk. For an application pack, please contact Kym Hobson on 01622 605788 or email: kym.hobson@kent.gov.uk quoting the appropriate reference.

Closing date: 3 January 2008.

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs



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01303 817040

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for a...

FINANCE ASSISTANT

Medway Scale, Grade D2
£14,492 - £18,430 (PRO RATA)

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties.

The successful applicant, under the direction of a Business Manager, will undertake a range of finance duties, including…
- management of school voluntary fund
- organisation of school uniform
- ordering of resources (raising purchase orders, settling invoices)
- monthly bank account reconciliation
- booking of staff training courses

In addition, the appointed person will
- have a good general standard of education (GCSE English & Maths)
- be computer literate (intermediate Microsoft Excel)
- have a working knowledge of SIMS FMS6 (desirable)
- have previous experience of managing accounts
- be able to work under pressure and to set deadlines

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 18.12.07

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achievement development experience employability

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, phase 2 of which completes at the end of 2007. We are now developing the plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Faculty Head Engineering & Construction

37 hrs per week, salary no less than £40,622 per annum Post Ref: FHEC1/KoS

We are seeking an individual of the highest calibre to help achieve our goal of being one of the best FE College by 2010.
You will be responsible for the operational delivery of the strategic plan within the Engineering & Construction Faculty, and will ensure a quality provision and suitable curriculum development to aid the learner experience. You will also play a key role in contributing to the development of the College's strategic & development plans, and will lead and inspire a team of Section Managers.

As a College we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of both young people and vulnerable adults, and the promotion of this will form an integral part of your role.

You will have significant experience in education leadership and people management, and will have the leadership skills to set the highest possible standards, both within your Faculty and throughout the College.
In return, we will offer you the rewards and support you would expect at such a senior level.

For an application pack please visit **www.cant-col.ac.uk** or call the Personnel Office on **01227 811282** (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.
The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include

- Pensions and LIfe Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to main bus/train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff discount scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

achievement development experience employability

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, phase 2 of which completes at the end of 2007. We are now developing the plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Marketing and Communications Manager

37 hrs per week, salary: £36,188 per annum Post Ref: 0806/KoS

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the college's marketing and communications, to establish, lead and manage a multi-disciplinary marketing and communications team; providing strategic vision and direction to ensure that the college's goals are met.
You will lead in the development, implementation and evaluation of a range of communications and marketing projects including events, campaigns and consultations.
The strategy you develop will be informed by thorough market and competitor research. You will be responsible for analysing and reporting to the Senior Management Team on the findings of this research and on campaign effectiveness and progress against budget and targets.
The college's internal communications are a key element of this role as the college strives to "Be the best college in the South East". Your team will commission, write, edit, proof read and coordinate internal and external publications, leaflets and promotional materials. Your experience of working with local, regional and national media will be essential in building and communicating the college's brand values and identity through a proactive media and public relations strategy.

This post is a senior role within the college structure and you will be required to provide reputation management advice and media advice to senior managers.

To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, and experience of leading a marketing and communications team.

You will posses a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit **www.cant-col.ac.uk** or call the Personnel Office on **01227 811282** (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.
The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include

- Pensions and LIfe Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to main bus/train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff discount scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

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100s of Kent Jobs online

ACCOUNTANCY

JOB TITLE:
Finance Assistant
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
Medway Scale, Grade D2 £14,492 - £18,430 (PRO RATA)
COMPANY:
Abbey Court School
The successful applicant, under the direction of a Business Manager, will undertake a range of finance duties, including: management of school voluntary fund; organisation of school uniform; ordering of resources (raising purchase orders, settling invoices); monthly bank account reconciliation; booking of staff training courses. In addition, the appointed person will have a good general standard of education (GCSE English & Maths), be computer literate (intermediate Microsoft Excel), have a working knowledge of SIMS FMS6 (desirable), have previous experience of managing accounts, be able to work under pressure and to set deadlines. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure. For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying): Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP. Please note CV's will not be accepted.
TO APPLY:
Mrs Linda Taylor
Abbey Court School
Tel: 01634 338224
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
18.12.07

ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAL, PA

JOB TITLE:
Admin Assistant
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
Point 14 Kent Scale £16,221 pro rata
COMPANY:
Bodsham School
6 hours per week - Term Time only. Computer literate assistant required to take on the day to day running of the computerised schools office systems including the management of the SIMS database - School Census, attendance, pupil and staff data, software updates, backups, order processing, internet & email. A good sense of humour is essential and also the ability to display tact and diplomacy when dealing with pupils and parents as part of the postholder's general office duties. For further information and an application form please contact us.
TO APPLY:
Mrs Jane Gregory
Bodsham School
Tel: 01233 750374
Email office@bodsham.kent.sch.uk

JOB TITLE:
Medical Receptionist
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
St Werburgh Medical Practice
Required to work for a busy practice covering 4 sites. Able to drive a must. 12 hours per week.
TO APPLY:
Julie Allen
St Werburgh Medical Practice
Tel: 01634 250523
Email heather.malcolm@nhs.net

JOB TITLE:
Office Assistant
LOCATION:
Tonbridge
SALARY:
£12,000
COMPANY:
Jee Limited
The role will provide administration support for the company as a whole, with particular emphasis on assisting the Courses Co-ordinator. Duties include: answering telephone, managing post, arranging couriers, scanning/filing, maintaining office supplies, booking flights/accommodation and preparing delegate welcome packs, course notes and certificates. The roles will suit anyone with a desire to be part of a successful team, and contribute towards the growth of the company.
TO APPLY:
Jee Limited
Email recruitment@jee.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
Wednesday 19th December

JOB TITLE:
PA to the Chief Executive
LOCATION:
Herne Bay
SALARY:
£18,551 per annum
COMPANY:
Strode Park Foundation
Strode Park Foundation is a long established registered charity working with people with disabilities and is one of the largest resource centres of its kind in Kent. This is an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills to get involved in a demanding PA role. Supporting the Chief Executive and the Council of Management, you will confidently be able to multi task to a highly efficient standard and communicate/liaise with people at all levels. Often the first point of contact for Council of Management members, senior staff, external partners and stakeholder organisations, the post-holder will consistently demonstrate strong interpersonal and communication skills.Vital to this position is the ability to maintain professional standards and to show a flair and enthusiasm for high quality customer service.The postholder will also have responsibility for managing the Foundation's Reception Team. You will have a proven administrative background and your skills will include: • Clear and accurate typing (minimum 60wpm). • Advanced level of Microsoft Office. • Diary management. • Complex and accurate minute taking/reporting at Board/Council level. • Confidence to draft high level correspondence. • Ability to work to a high standard using your own initiative. The post is full time (35 hours per week) with occasional out of hours work. For an application pack, please contact the HR Team, or for an informal discussion about the role contact Paul Montgomery, Chief Executive, both on 01227 373292. Interviews will be held during week commencing 7 January 2008.
TO APPLY:
Strode Park Foundation
Email info@strodepark.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
Tuesday 18 December 2007

JOB TITLE:
Traffic Controller - Sales Development
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Charles Hewitt Ltd
We require an enthusiastic and dedicated person to join our busy transport team, providing admin. support to the Transport Manager, maintaining driver & vehicle records, dealing with load enquiries and our trailer rental operation,developing and supporting new & existing customer business. Experience in a busy traffic office would be an advantage.
TO APPLY:
Dave Grummitt
Charles Hewitt Ltd
Tel: 01227 464386
Email traffic@charleshewitt.co.uk

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT

JOB TITLE:
Lawn Technician
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
£13,000 per annum
COMPANY:
GreenThumb Ashford
A full-time year-round job involving regular visits to domestic lawns throughout the East Kent area applying lawn feeds and weed-killers on a regular basis in pleasant surroundings. Hours of work are between 8 am and 5pm. No experience is necessary as we provide full training – a disposition toward outdoor work would be an advantage. • Are you Dependable, Diligent and Honest? • Do you have a clean Driving Licence? If you can answer yes, we would be happy to speak with you. For an informal chat about this position and its attractive possibilities call Mike on 01622 850810. Closing date:
TO APPLY:
GreenThumb Ashford
Email kenteast@greenthumb.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
21st December 2007

CATERING, HOSPITALITY

JOB TITLE:
Experienced Bar Staff
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Plough & Harrow (The)
To apply please attend the interview Open Day date on 13th December between 10am-12pm with a CV to: The Plough & Harrow, 86 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent CT4 5LA.
TO APPLY:
Plough & Harrow (The)
Tel: 01227 830455
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Hospitality and Events Administrator
LOCATION:
LongField
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
MotorSport Vision Ltd
The Hospitality and Events Administrator will provide administrative support and assist with the co-ordination of forthcoming corporate driving events, conferences, banquets and race day hospitality for Brands Hatch. The successful candidate will ideally be educated to A-level standard or equivalent and possess excellent written and spoken English skills, as well as being experienced within a fast paced department which deals with a large volume of admin work, requiring accuracy and good presentation at all times. They will be highly organised, demonstrate strong Outlook, Word and Excel skills, and be comfortable communicating with customers handling customer queries and requests both face to face and over the telephone. Please apply in writing, including salary expectations and current CV, to: Jo Brown, Brands Hatch, Fawkham, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8NG.
TO APPLY:
MotorSport Vision Ltd
Email joanne.brown
@motorsportvision.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Hospitality and Events Coordinator
LOCATION:
LongField
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
MotorSport Vision Ltd
This hands on role would suit a candidate with previous experience working within a fast paced department which deals with a large volume of admin work, requiring accuracy and good presentation at all times. They will be highly organised, demonstrate strong Outlook, Word and Excel skills, and be comfortable communicating with customers both face to face and over the telephone. Educated to A-level standard or equivalent, they will possess excellent written and spoken English skills, be a good communicator and ideally have previous front of house experience in the hotel, conferencing or events industry. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate that they can work under their own initiative and have an eye for detail. Please apply in writing, including salary expectations and current CV, to: Jo Brown, Brands Hatch, Fawkham, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8NG.
TO APPLY:
MotorSport Vision Ltd
Email joanne.brown
@motorsportvision.co.uk

CHILD CARE

JOB TITLE:
After School Club Deputy Supervisor
LOCATION:
Margate
SALARY:
£7,098 per annum
COMPANY:
Millmead Neighbourhood Centre Association
3-year contract subject to future funding. 19.5 hours per week. To work as part of a team and to assist the Supervisor in the running of the After School Club. Must be qualified at Certificate in Playwork: NVQ Level 2 in Childcare or equivalent. Post requires some flexibility and is subject to a CRB check.
TO APPLY:
Vanessa Rayner - Manager
Millmead Neighbourhood Centre Association
Tel: (01843) 221325
Email mnca1@tiscali.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
21st December 2007

JOB TITLE:
After School Club Development Worker
LOCATION:
Margate
SALARY:
£16,380 per annum
COMPANY:
Millmead Neighbourhood Centre Association
3-year contract subject to future funding. 35 hours per week. To develop and implement new services at the After School Club for children aged 5 -11 years. Will also be required to work with parents and local families. Experience in community development work an advantage. Must be qualified to Advanced Certificate in Playwork: NVQ Level 3 in Childcare or equivalent. Post requires some flexibility and is subject to a CRB check.
TO APPLY:
Vanessa Rayner - Manager
Millmead Neighbourhood Centre Association
Tel: (01843) 221325
Email mnca1@tiscali.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
21st December 2007

JOB TITLE:
After School Club Playworker - 2 Posts
LOCATION:
Margate
SALARY:
£5,070 per annum
COMPANY:
Millmead Neighbourhood Centre Association
3-year contracts subject to future funding. 16.25 hours per week. To work in the After School Club and share in the development of resources for 5 - 11 year olds. Posts require some flexibility and are subject to a CRB check.
TO APPLY:
Vanessa Rayner - Manager
Millmead Neighbourhood Centre Association
Tel: (01843) 221325
Email mnca1@tiscali.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
21st December 2007

JOB TITLE:
After School Club Supervisor
LOCATION:
Margate
SALARY:
£14,560 per annum
COMPANY:
Millmead Neighbourhood Centre Association
3-year contracts subject to future funding. 35 hours per week. To work as part of the team running an After School Club for 5 - 11 year olds. To liaise with the Development Worker in the development of the club and staff. Must be qualified to Advanced Certificate in Playwork: NVQ Level 3 in Childcare or equivalent. Post requires some flexibility and is subject to a CRB check.
TO APPLY:
Vanessa Rayner - Manager
Millmead Neighbourhood Centre Association
Tel: (01843) 221325
Email mnca1@tiscali.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
21st December 2007

JOB TITLE:
Qualified Childcare Practitioner (Level 3 or above)
LOCATION:
Ramsgate
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Playaways
To work in a busy pre-school, sound knowlege of foundation stage/birth to three matters is essential. Crb check/first aid required. 30hrs per week pro rata.
TO APPLY:
Pauline
Playaways
Tel: 01843 852700
Email playaways@tesco.net

JOB TITLE:
Senior Practitioner Supervising Social Worker
LOCATION:
Bexley
SALARY:
TBA
COMPANY:
Kaleidoscope
Applicants, ideally with a child-care background, are invited to apply for the above full time posts. Closing date for applications is the 13th December, with interviews taking place on the 19th and 20th of December 2007. For further information or an application form please call for more information.
TO APPLY:
Jo Darby
Kaleidoscope
Tel: 01795 830006
Email admin@kaleidoscope-fostercare.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE, SURVEYORS

JOB TITLE:
Geotechnical Project Engineer
LOCATION:
Kent
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Lankelma
Applications are invited for the position of Geotechnical Project Engineer. An interesting and varied role. In the office you will be undertaking reporting, tendering and client liaison. Out of the office you will work on site as an engineer and be out and about meeting clients, selling our services and raising the profile of cone penetration testing (CPT). The successful candidate will be of degree calibre in a geological or geotechnical subject, have excellent team-working and communication skills and have a strong interest in soils, sediments and how they behave! In addition, you will need previous experience of working as a site engineer or interpreting geotechnical data. A strong flair for commercial and sales activities would be desirable.This role will be based at our Iden office. Visit www.lankelma.com for details of other existing vacancies, including Trainee Geotechnical Engineers' opportunities.
TO APPLY:
Wendy Andrews, HR Manager
Lankelma
Tel: 01797 280050
Email recruit@lankelma.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Surveyor
LOCATION:
West Malling
SALARY:
Negotiable package
COMPANY:
Avenue Building Company Ltd
Required by specialist company. Computer experience essential.
TO APPLY:
Avenue Building Company Ltd
Email smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk

CUSTOMER SERVICE, CALL CENTRE

JOB TITLE:
Telecare Support Officer
LOCATION:
Folkestone
SALARY:
£20,004 to £24,444 + car allowance
COMPANY:
Shepway District Council
Shepway Lifeline Service is seeking to strengthen its team by recruiting a further Telecare Customer Support Officer. Working under the direction and guidance of the Service Advisor Team Leader you will respond to Lifeline and Telecare enquiries from both private individuals as well as our partners in Health and Social Services. To succeed in this demanding role you will be proactive in your approach and have a flexible "can do" attitude, as well as an ability to prioritise workloads. Experience with Telecare/Lifeline systems and working with vulnerable groups and individuals will be advantageous. An interest in technological issues within this industry and a keenness to resolve problems and give all support to our clients is a pre-requisite for this post. Additionally a demonstrable interest in marketing and promotion will add impetus to this role and would bring a positive contribution to our service provision. According to the demands of the service there maybe occasions when you will be required to work in the evenings or at weekends, this however will not be the norm. If you wish to know more or visit the Control Centre, contact Ed Tingley on 07771 772315. Alternatively you may contact Shelley Squance or Angela Vince on 01303 242971. CV'S ARE NOT ACCEPTED
TO APPLY:
Shepway District Council
Tel: 01303 853481 - 24 hour answerphone
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
Friday 21 December 2007

DOMESTIC

JOB TITLE:
Cleaner
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
£7.00 p/hour
COMPANY:
House Fairies (The)
Private Domestic Homes. Self employed. Part time then moving onto full time. Own transport & references essential. No time wasters.
TO APPLY:
House Fairies (The)
Tel: 07931 916 783
Email thehousefairies@tiscali.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Cleaner
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
£11,371 - £11,716
COMPANY:
HM Prison Service
To carry out cleaning services around the prison including carpeted areas, desks, bins and toilets, maintaining a high standard and taking into account Health and Safety issues. Experience is preferable but not essential. Completed applications should be returned to James Restall, Kent & Sussex Areas Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3PZ. This post is open to part-time and job share applicants. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.
TO APPLY:
James Restall HM Prison Service
Tel: 01634 673036
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd January 2008

Kent County Council

Qualified Teachers - Kent Children's Centres'

Main Professional Grade or Upper Pay Scale:
£20,133 - £29,427 or £31,878 - £34,281 pa

Fringe Scale:
£21,102 - £30,393 or £32,847 - £35,250 plus TLR 2(2) of £3,940 pa

Part or full-time opportunities

In the context of the Government's agenda of rolling out children's centres to cover the country, Kent County Council is seeking to appoint up to 15 full time equivalent qualified early years teachers to work in support of children's centres across Kent. These exciting opportunities will involve working alongside early education and childcare providers in all sectors to promote and support the highest quality care and learning opportunities for children from birth to five.

Kent currently has 20 Children's Centres throughout the county – with plans to increase this to 72 by 2008. Each centre serves approximately 800 children, offering a range of multi-agency services, with a qualified teacher contributing to the strategic development and direction.

You will be outstanding and experienced practitioners, possessing excellent interpersonal and communication skills as these will be crucial to achievement in this significantly multi-agency, cross sector environment.

Kent is seeking to appoint candidates on a part time basis to work in one centre, or alternatively on a full time basis to work across two centres.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

If you would like further information about these posts, please contact in the first instance Stacey Joyce on 01622 626685 or email stacey.joyce@kent.gov.uk

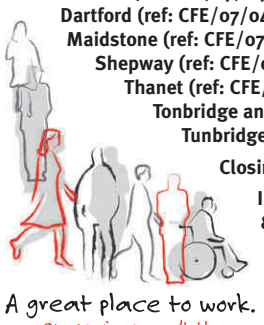
For an application pack, please contact Kym Hobson on 01622 605788 or email: kym.hobson@kent.gov.uk

Please quote the relevant reference for the location(s) you wish to apply for:

Ashford (ref: CFE/07/0454) Canterbury (ref: CFE/07/0455), Dartford (ref: CFE/07/0456) Gravesham (ref: CFE/07/0457), Maidstone (ref: CFE/07/0458) Sevenoaks (ref: CFE/07/0459), Shepway (ref: CFE/07/0460) Swale (ref: CFE/07/0461), Thanet (ref: CFE/07/0462) Tonbridge and Malling (ref: CFE/07/0463), Tunbridge Wells (ref: CFE/07/0464)

Closing date: 3 January 2008

Interviews: w/c 28 January & 4 February 2008



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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JobsforKent.co.uk

EDUCATION, TEACHER, SCHOOL

JOB TITLE:
KS2 Teacher
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Hoo St Werburgh Primary School
Full or part time and temporary. Term of contract: To cover maternity leave. Hoo St Werburgh Primary school & Marlborough Centre Pottery Road Hoo Rochester Kent ME3 9BS
TO APPLY:
Jo Trickett, Headteacher
Hoo St Werburgh Primary School
Tel: 01634 338040
Email office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
3 January 2008

JOB TITLE:
KS2 Teacher
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Thames View Junior School
Part time and temporary Thames View Junior School Bloors Lane Rainham Gillingham Kent ME8 7DX
TO APPLY:
Linda Lowrey, Headteacher
Thames View Junior School
Tel: 01634 232540
Email office@thamesview-jun.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
25 February 2008

JOB TITLE:
Play / Lunchtime Supervisor
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Ashford South Community Primary School
10 hours per week. The appointment will be subject to a staisfactory CRB check
TO APPLY:
Richard Harrison
Ashford South Community Primary School
Tel: 01233 620503
Email mail@south-ashford.kent.sch.uk

JOB TITLE:
Qualified Teachers - Kent Children's Centres
LOCATION:
Kent
SALARY:
£20,133 - £29,427 or £31,878 - £34,281 pa, Fringe Scale: £21,102 - £30,393 or £32,847 - £35,250 plus TLR 2(2) of £3,940 pa
COMPANY:
Kent County Council
Part or full-time opportunities. In the context of the Government's agenda of rolling out children's centres to cover the country, Kent County Council is seeking to appoint up to 15 full time equivalent qualified early years teachers to work in support of children's centres across Kent. These exciting opportunities will involve working alongside early education and childcare providers in all sectors to promote and support the highest quality care and learning opportunities for children from birth to five. Kent currently has 20 Children's Centres throughout the county – with plans to increase this to 72 by 2008. Each centre serves approximately 800 children, offering a range of multi-agency services, with a qualified teacher contributing to the strategic development and direction. You will be outstanding and experienced practitioners, possessing excellent interpersonal and communication skills as these will be crucial to achievement in this significantly multi-agency, cross sector environment. Kent is seeking to appoint candidates on a part time basis to work in one centre, or alternatively on a full time basis to work across two centres. These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. If you would like further information about these posts, please contact in the first instance Stacey Joyce on 01622 626685 or email stacey.joyce@kent.gov.uk. Please quote the relevant reference for the location(s) you wish to apply for: Ashford (ref: CFE/07/0454), Canterbury (ref: CFE/07/0455), Dartford (ref: CFE/07/0456), Gravesham (ref: CFE/07/0457), Maidstone (ref: CFE/07/0458), Sevenoaks (ref: CFE/07/0459), Shepway (ref: CFE/07/0460), Swale (ref: CFE/07/0461), Thanet (ref: CFE/07/0462), Tonbridge and Malling (ref: CFE/07/0463), Tunbridge Wells (ref: CFE/07/0464). Interviews: w/c 28 January & 4 February 2008
TO APPLY:
Kym Hobson
Kent County Council
Tel: 01622 605788
Email kym.hobson@kent.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
3 January 2008

JOB TITLE:
Specialist teacher (Mixed Year 3/4/5 Class)
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
MPS/UPS
COMPANY:
Warren Wood Primary School
Full Time and Fixed Term Contract Warren Wood Community Primary School and Language Unit Arethusa Road Rochester ME1 2UR
TO APPLY:
Mr Peter Whistler, Headteacher
Warren Wood Primary School
Tel: 01634 337227
Email trimk001@medway.org.uk
CLOSING DATE
7 January 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teacher of General Subjects
LOCATION:
Gillingham
SALARY:
MPS + SEN allowance (£1818)
COMPANY:
Rivermead
Rivermead School Forge Lane Gillingham Kent ME7 1UG
TO APPLY:
Mrs Karen Watkin, office manager
Rivermead
Tel: 01634 338348
Email
office@rivermead.medway.sch.uk
CLOSING DATE
15 January 2008

JOB TITLE:
Teachers
LOCATION:
Kent
SALARY:
Excellent Daily Rate
COMPANY:
Classic Education
Required now for supply and long term work in your local area. Call for an immediate interview.
TO APPLY:
Classic Education
Tel: 01474 359333
Email office@classiceducation.co.uk

ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, UTILITIES

JOB TITLE:
Applications Engineer
LOCATION:
Herne Bay
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Flexicon (Europe) Ltd
Working as part of our busy sales team, we seek a self-motivated, result oriented individual to generate Powder Handling System designs and technical proposals for the Food, Chemical and Pharmaceutical industries. Requirements: • Experienced technical sales/recent graduate – to build existing market share & develop new export markets • Consultative approach • Technical background / mechanical aptitude • Good communication skills • Well developed time management skills • Familiarity with Microsoft Office - Word/Excel & Powerpoint. In return for this challenging opportunity we offer an excellent working environment, training, a competitive salary & benefits. Please apply in writing or by email including your CV to The Personnel Dept, Flexicon (Europe) Ltd, 89 Lower Herne Road, Herne Bay, Kent. CT6 7PH.
TO APPLY:
Flexicon (Europe) Ltd
Email personnel@flexicon.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Maintenance Electrician
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
£8.74 per hour plus overtime at appropriate rates: Callouts at additional rates + weekly standby bonus
COMPANY:
Canterbury Mills Ltd
To work at our Waltham facility: 40 hours per week. The ideal candidate must be conversant with industrial electrics and be able to work to 415v, knowledge of plc's and industrial boiler electrics would be an advantage. Owing to location own transport is essential. Applications in the first instance to Stephen Legg / Maintenance Manager at Canterbury Mills Ltd Thruxted Mill, Penny Pot Lane, Waltham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7EZ.
TO APPLY:
Stephen Legg Canterbury Mills Ltd
Tel: 01227 730271
Email
rogerjsing@canterburymills.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Product Development and Design Engineers
LOCATION:
Whitstable
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Amphenol Ltd
The main focus of these roles will be to work with customers, sales and marketing and project teams developing products to meet customer requirements technically and in terms of cost and quality. Key Tasks: - • Assess customer requirements from specifications and integrate applicable standards and lessons learned from past experience • Propose alternative concepts and solutions, evaluating the most cost effective design solution • Work with the prototyping model shop to evaluate the feasibility and performance of concepts through to the qualification of the selected design • Work with quality and manufacturing engineers to specify quality requirements and manufacturing procedures • Work with project teams from design concept to production, qualification and induction of the product • Provide technical support as required Qualifications and Experience requirements: - • Preferably Electrical, Electronic and/or Mechanical Engineering to degree level qualification or equivalent. However, we would consider candidates working towards a relevant qualification or with proven experience in design of similar components used in defence or marsh environment applications • Experience in 3D modelling – Ideally Pro-Engineer or similar • Experience in product development and proven ability to select design to meet cost and quality In return we offer a competitive package For more information or to apply please telephone the on
TO APPLY:
Human Resources Department
Amphenol Ltd
Tel: 01227 773390
Email laurasmith@amphenol.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Quality/Logistics Engineer
LOCATION:
Herne Bay
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Flexicon (Europe) Ltd
Working as part of our busy production team, we seek a dedicated individual with a structured approach to: • Produce & maintain equipment manuals • Assure Quality in our finished systems • Produce Shipping Documentation for UK & overseas destinations • Liase with Freight companies to optimise contract quality & costs. Requirements: • AutoCAD Experience • Technical aptitude • Good communication skills • Well developed time management skills • Familiarity with Microsoft Office - Outlook/Word/Excel. In return for this challenging opportunity we offer an excellent working environment, training, a competitive salary & benefits. Please apply in writing or by email including your CV to The Personnel Dept, Flexicon (Europe) Ltd, 89 Lower Herne Road, Herne Bay, Kent. CT6 7PH.
TO APPLY:
Flexicon (Europe) Ltd
Email personnel@flexicon.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Self Motivated Site Foremen
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
Negotiable
COMPANY:
Avenue Building Company Ltd
To work within the medical pre-installation field. Must be willing to work away from home. Electrically biased preferred, but not essential.
TO APPLY:
Sue Miller
Avenue Building Company Ltd
Email smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk

GRADUATE, TRAINEES

JOB TITLE:
Home Business Opportunity
LOCATION:
Kent
SALARY:
Earn from £500 - £2,500 pm
COMPANY:
Home Business Opportunity
Choose your hours - full or part-time. Full training given. Proven system and programme. Applicants MUST register for a free information pack: www.yourbusiness.org.uk. Home business opportunities.
TO APPLY:
Nevil Kapadia
Home Business Opportunity
Tel: 0208 432 9427
Email
untoldriches@blueyonder.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Management Trainees
LOCATION:
N/A
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Copart UK
Chester, Westbury in Wiltshire, Sandwich in Kent, Sandy in Bedfordshire, Sandtoft in North Lincolnshire and Wootton in Bedfordshire. You will be expected to learn about every area of the branch, including: customer calls, office processes, customer vehicle pick-up, storage, sale and delivery processes, yard operations, record keeping, etc. This position would suit a positive, proactive, and capable individual who's not afraid to get their hands dirty whilst they train to be a leader of the future. Both positions involve UK travel, and are rewarded with competitive salary and benefits packages. Applications are invited from all sectors as full training will be provided. Interested? Please send your CV and covering letter, including salary expectations and preferred location, to Lydia Edwards, Copart UK, Acrey Fields, Woburn Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire, MK43 9EJ.
TO APPLY:
Copart UK
Email lydia.edwards@copart.co.uk
Closing Date Friday, 28 December 2007

INDUSTRIAL, WAREHOUSE, FACTORY

JOB TITLE:
Warehouse Operative
LOCATION:
Sevenoaks
SALARY:
£16313.44 per annum
COMPANY:
3663 SRDC
40 hours over five days. If you are physically fit and have the motivation to keep our warehouse running smoothly and good team spirit, we'd love to hear from you. We currently have the following shifts available: 6am to 3pm, 4pm to 1am (shift allowance for the latter).
TO APPLY:
Nick Burton
3663 SRDC
Tel: 01732 468140
Email nickburton@3663.co.uk

INSURANCE, BANKING, FINANCE

JOB TITLE:
Finance Administrator
LOCATION:
Tonbridge
SALARY:
£20,000 – £22,500
COMPANY:
Jee Limited
The role will involve the preparation of accounting and budgeting processes, including: monthly financial reporting, sales ledger, credit control, purchase ledger (including BACS payments), direct debit/standing order entry into Sage, controlling and monitoring fixed asset expenditure in line with budget, credit card and petty cash administration, balance sheet reconciliations, payroll and commercial filing.
TO APPLY:
Jee Limited
Email recruitment@jee.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
Wednesday 19 December 2007

JOB TITLE:
Finance Manager
LOCATION:
Tonbridge
SALARY:
£38,000 - £42,000 pro rata
COMPANY:
Jee Limited
20-25hrs per week. The role will involve responsibility for the overall finance management and strategy of the company. Producing the annual budget, forecasts and monthly accounts, cashflow forecasting, production of annual accounts, managing payroll, ensuring financial controls are in place throughout the company and supervising all duties carried out by the Finance Administrator.
TO APPLY:
Jee Limited
Email recruitment@jee.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
Wednesday 19th December

LEGAL

JOB TITLE:
Solicitors
LOCATION:
Ashford
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Kingsfords Solicitors
Kingsfords are recruiting for full time and part time solicitors and/or clerks in their probate department. The positions are very flexible and arrangements could be made for home working, where appropriate. There are good prospects and an excellent package for the successful candidate. Please apply in writing with full C.V. to: Mrs C R Pleasance, Kingsfords LLP, 2 Elwick Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PD.
TO APPLY:
Mrs C R Pleasance
Kingsfords Solicitors
Tel: 01233 624545
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

LEISURE, TOURISM, TRAVEL

JOB TITLE:
Assistant Stewards / Stewardesses
LOCATION:
Dover
SALARY:
£14,160/annum £7.86/hour Shifts covering 1800 annualised hours
COMPANY:
New Appointments Group
You must have excellent customer service skills and be prepared to make a visible contribution to the success of P&O Ferries. We need smart, intelligent, enthusiastic people who have had experience working with the public, perhaps within the leisure, ferry, airline or retail sectors. Conversational French or another second European language would be an advantage but is not essential, as would previous experience of working on ferries. We will operate a shift roster over a 7-day week and candidates must be able to work on a range of shift patterns that will include some nights. These permanent positions offer excellent career opportunities with P&O Ferries and carry the additional benefits of meals on board, uniforms supplied and significant travel concessions after the six months probationary period. New Appointments Group, 4 Priory Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9AA.
TO APPLY:
New Appointments Group
Tel: 01304 215924
Email nagp&o
@newappointmentsgroup.co.uk

MANAGEMENT, SENIOR POSITIONS

JOB TITLE:
Assistant General Manager
LOCATION:
N/A
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Copart UK
Chester, Westbury in Wiltshire, Sandwich in Kent, Sandy in Bedfordshire, Sandtoft in North Lincolnshire and Wootton in Bedfordshire. You will work closely with the General Manager to ensure the efficient operation of yard facilities, equipment and personnel. You will be involved in all areas of management including, recruitment, staff motivation, productivity, training, auditing, logistics, health & safety, inventory management, etc. The successful candidates will have existing leadership skills and experience. They will be excellent time managers who understand the need to exceed customer expectations. With a hands on, 'get stuck in' approach, they will be committed to taking a leading role in Copart's future. Interested? Please send your CV and covering letter, including salary expectations and preferred location, to Lydia Edwards, Copart UK, Acrey Fields, Woburn Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire, MK43 9EJ.
TO APPLY:
Copart UK
Email lydia.edwards@copart.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
Friday, 28 December 2007

JOB TITLE:
Capital Project Manager
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
circa £70,000 per annum
COMPANY:
Canterbury College
We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the redevelopment project, ensuring that it is delivered on time, within budget, and in accordance with the design brief and targets. Leading the project on behalf of the College, you will direct, co-ordinate and supervise the project in association with the College's Senior Management Team, Project Team and consultants. Responsible for ensuring that the overall project programme can be approved by the Corporation and all activities are completed within defined parameters, you will also prepare the Estates Working Party papers in liaison with the Principal and the Clerk to the Corporation. You will recommend and secure approval for any modifications of variation to the agreed brief, and will advise the Corporation on overall risk and exposure through the Capital programme. You will be responsible for all aspects of financial management in liaison with the College's Director of Finance and Corporate Services, including monitoring of cashflow against College plans, all forms of asset management, including tenders, procurement and leasing options, and achieving best value in line with LSC guidelines. To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, such as a Postgraduate qualification in project management, or equivalent experience of public sector construction. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate detailed understanding of the financial and contractual management of construction projects, and the ability to think strategically to lead and advocate on complex projects. You will also have negotiation skills, and the ability to work to deadlines and to lead and motivate a team. Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College. You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities. Staff benefits include: Pensions and LIfe Assurance Scheme, Sports Hall and Gym, Proximity to main bus/train stations, Generous Holiday Allowance, Close to City Centre, Staff discount scheme.
TO APPLY:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Tel: 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone)
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
15 January 2008 at 12 noon

MARKETING, ADVERTISING

JOB TITLE:
Marketing and Communications Manager
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
£36,188 per annum
COMPANY:
Canterbury College
We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the college's marketing and communications, to establish, lead and manage a multi-disciplinary marketing and communications team; providing strategic vision and direction to ensure that the college's goals are met. You will lead in the development, implementation and evaluation of a range of communications and marketing projects including events, campaigns and consultations. The strategy you develop will be informed by thorough market and competitor research. You will be responsible for analysing and reporting to the Senior Management Team on the findings of this research and on campaign effectiveness and progress against budget and targets. The college's internal communications are a key element of this role as the college strives to "Be the best college in the South East". Your team will commission, write, edit, proof read and coordinate internal and external publications, leaflets and promotional materials. Your experience of working with local, regional and national media will be essential in building and communicating the college's brand values and identity through a proactive media and public relations strategy. This post is a senior role within the college structure and you will be required to provide reputation management advice and media advice to senior managers. To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, and experience of leading a marketing and communications team. You will posses a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College. You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities. Staff benefits include: Pensions and LIfe Assurance Scheme, Sports Hall and Gym, Proximity to main bus/train stations, Generous Holiday Allowance, Close to City Centre, Staff discount scheme.
TO APPLY:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Tel: 01227 811282 (24hr answer)
quoting the post reference Emailapplications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
15 January 2008 at 12 noon

MOTOR TRADE, DRIVER

JOB TITLE:
Experienced Sales Executive
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Whitehouse Jeep Maidstone
This is an ideal opportunity for an experienced sales executive to take their career onwards to one of the fastest growing franchise marques in the UK. The candidate would ideally already be working in a motor dealership environment or possess previous knowledge. You also need to be organised and be an articulate team player capable of converting enquiries into sales and delivering exceptional levels of customer service for this fast growing and forward thinking marque. In return, we offer an excellent salary and commission package. Please foward your CV to Mark Wood, Dealer Principal, Whitehouse Jeep Maidstone, 1-17 The Broadway, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8QX.
TO APPLY:
Whitehouse Jeep Maidstone
Email
mark.wood@whitehouse.uk.com

JOB TITLE:
Section Manager – Workshop
LOCATION:
Aylesford
SALARY:
£27,500 - £32,500 • 37.5 hours per week covering early, late and night shifts
COMPANY:
Waitrose
You'll manage a team of technicians responsible for the MOT and service programmes of our fleet. It will be down to you to ensure that repairs are carried out cost-effectively without compromising quality. The role will involve liaising with other departments to schedule maintenance activity, working closely with our Workshop Manager to maintain accurate records and sourcing parts from suppliers. An experienced mechanic with City and Guilds 1, 2, 3 Vehicle Technician or equivalent, CITB/City and Guilds Refrigeration/Gas Handling, IRTEC and LGV C+E driving licence, you'll be a proven team manager who can lead by example. A professional commercial vehicle engineering qualification (to MIRTE level) is also essential, as are good interpersonal and IT skills. As a Partner in our business, you can look forward to an excellent profit sharing scheme, which this year was equivalent to nine weeks' pay. We also offer discounts in Waitrose and John Lewis stores, pension scheme, free life assurance, subsidised educational, leisure and sporting activities, subsidised meals and five weeks' holiday after three years' service. To apply, please send your CV, quoting reference VM1, to Debbie Read, Assistant Personnel Manager Supply Chain, Waitrose Ltd, Southern Industrial Area, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8YA.
TO APPLY:
Waitrose
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
11th January 2008

JOB TITLE:
Seervice Advisor
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Baileys Nissan
Previous experience preferred but not essential. Pleasant, helpful personality is essential.
TO APPLY:
David Jackson, Service Manager
Baileys Nissan
Tel: 01227 766777
Email brian@baileysnissan.co.uk

NOT FOR PROFIT, CHARITIES

JOB TITLE:
Volunteers
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
N/A
COMPANY:
Canterbury & Herne Bay Volunteer Centre (The)
Are you a rural volunteer? Are you a rural organisation that uses volunteers? If you would like advice or help, please contact us.
TO APPLY:
Canterbury & Herne Bay Volunteer Centre (The)
Tel: 01227 452278
Email canterburyvc@hotmail.com

Kent Company Profiles
Read about Kent's Leading companies

JobsforKent.co.uk

NURSING, MEDICINE, CARE WORK

JOB TITLE:
Nurses and Carers
LOCATION:
Kings Hill
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Bayada Nurses Ltd
We will: Pay rates that reflect your skills Value your expertise Invest in your development Encourage best practice Reward your successes For further details please contact Bayada Nurses Ltd., Suite 5, 30 Churchill Square, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4YU Tel: These positions are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure
TO APPLY:
Bayada Nurses Ltd
Tel: 01732 523442
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Support Workers
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Kent Care at Home
Full or Part-time. Required to join friendly Care At Home Service working in Maidstone and the surrounding area. Weekend and evening enhancements. Mileage payments. Pension Scheme. Paid Training. Car drivers essential. Please contact Kent Care At Home Service for an application form.
TO APPLY:
Kent Care at Home
Tel: 01622 670065
Email jennet.shone@lcdisability.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS, MEDIA, JOURNALISM

JOB TITLE:
International Management Trainees
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
£28k OTE (Uncapped)
COMPANY:
Meltwater News
We are looking for talented individuals to join our office in Canterbury. With a strong emphasis on sales, you will experience personal and professional growth at a fast pace. If you are the right person, with the right attitude, you will be given the opportunity to flourish within our UK, European, Asian or US Management Program. Does Sydney, Hong Kong or Miami sound appealing? Well pay attention; this is what we are looking for… The Industry: - Fast paced world of online media monitoring The Job: - Business to Business sales - Strategic thinking on individual client needs - Negotiating long term contracts with directors & executives - Developing your own customer portfolio The Preferred Skills & Qualifications: - University degree (any discipline) - Strong communication & relationship building skills - Exceptional interpersonal & analytical skills - Sales experience ideal (not essential) - Team Player - Excellent level of proficiency in written and spoken English We Are Offering: - Fun work culture - Accelerated promotion program - International career opportunities - £28K OTE (uncapped)
Please visit our website www.meltwaternews.com and download our questionnaire (can be found here: http://meltwaternews.com/home/careers_openings_europe.php) and send this together with your CV to the email address below. We look forward to receive your application!
TO APPLY:
Christian
Meltwater News
Email
job.canterbury@meltwaternews.com
CLOSING DATE
31st January 2008

PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES

JOB TITLE:
Casework Team Leader
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
£23,434 - £30,676
COMPANY:
HM Prison Service
We require a Team Leader, preferably with casework management experience, to manage the Casework Team who are responsible for the provision of a co-ordinated range of resettlement services for both remand and convicted young people at Cookham Wood and effective resettlement outcomes. You must be able to work in a logical, methodical and organised manner. An understanding of risk-led sentence management and the Youth Justice System, both in the community and in custody is desirable together with knowledge of e-ASSET and the Wiring up Youth Justice Programme. Completed applications should be returned to James Restall, Kent & Sussex Areas Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3PZ. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.
TO APPLY:
James Restall
HM Prison Service
Tel: 01634 673036
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd January 2008

JOB TITLE:
Child Protection Co-ordinator
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
£23,434 - £30,676
COMPANY:
HM Prison Service
By providing Child Protection advice, guidance and practical support, you will ensure the prison is a safe and child focused environment for the young people. As the main point of contact within the establishment for Child Protection matters, you will advise the Governor, Senior Management Team and other staff on Child Protection policy and practice. It is essential that you hold or be working towards a Social Work qualification and have knowledge of Child Protection legislation and operation in a multi-agency arena. You should also possess an understanding of the complex issues faced by young people in custody. Experience of working with or in a child protection team is desirable, as is experience of policy and procedure writing. Completed applications should be returned to James Restall, Kent & Sussex Areas Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3PZ. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.
TO APPLY:
James Restall
HM Prison Service
Tel: 01634 673036
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd January 2008

JOB TITLE:
Children's Centre Community Involvement Workers
LOCATION:
Kent
SALARY:
£19,572 - £22,268
COMPANY:
Kent County Council
Thanet (ref CFE/07/0489) Gravesham (ref CFE/07/0490) Canterbury (ref CFE/07/0491) Ashford (ref CFE/07/0492) Tonbridge & Malling (ref CFE/07/0493) Maidstone (ref CFE/07/0494) Shepway (Dymchurch) (ref CFE/07/0495). We are seeking to recruit Community Involvement Workers to work in a number of Children's Centres across Kent. The successful candidates will work as part of multi-agency teams, raising awareness in the community about the range of services on offer in the centres. For those families who do not use the Children's Centres, you will provide important information and access to services. You will ensure that the views of children and their families and those of the wider community are sought and included in the development of services in the Children's Centres. You will need to have strong interpersonal skills with an enthusiastic, tactful and flexible approach. You will need to demonstrate a clear understanding of how to support the most vulnerable families to access services to improve the outcomes for children. The role will include the co-ordination of the recruitment, training and management of volunteers to support the running of the Children's Centre. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.To find out more please email: stacey.joyce@kent.gov.uk.
TO APPLY:
Kym Hobson
Kent County Council
Tel: 01622 605788
Email kym.hobson@kent.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
3 January 2008

JOB TITLE:
Children's Centre Managers
LOCATION:
Kent
SALARY:
£29,190 - £34,507
COMPANY:
Kent County Council
Dartford (ref CFE/07/0482) Tunbridge Wells (ref CFE/07/0483) Tonbridge & Malling (ref CFE/07/0484) Sevenoaks (ref CFE/07/0485) Maidstone (ref CFE/07/0486) Ashford (ref CFE/07/0487) Swale (ref CFE/07/0488) We are seeking to appoint Children's Centre Managers in a number of Children's Centres across Kent. You will need to lead an integrated team to work in partnership with parents and carers and a range of partners and organisations across Kent to meet the specific needs of children under five and their families. With a degree, or equivalent qualification in health, social work, education, community work, childcare or a similar field, you must be able to lead a multi-agency service, demonstrating excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Successful candidates will have the National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership or be willing to work towards this qualification. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. To find out more please contact Stacey Joyce on 01622 626685 or email: stacey.joyce@kent.gov.uk.
TO APPLY:
Kym Hobson
Kent County Council
Tel: 01622 605788
Email kym.hobson@kent.gov.uk
CLOSING DATE
3 January 2008

JOB TITLE:
Estate and Building Services Manager
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
£44,149 - £49,875 per annum
COMPANY:
Canterbury College
Interview Date: Tuesday 22 January 2008. We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to ensure that College sites are fully utilised, maintained and enhanced, to provide an optimum learning and working environment for all users. You will have the opportunity to produce, update and develop the College's property and accommodation strategies, and will prepare maintenance and small buildings works programmes and schedules. You will lead on health and safety strategy and policy, and ensure the provision and maintenance of effective fire precautions, security systems and safety arrangements. Assisting the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in the preparation of relevant capital and revenue budgets, you will also manage the department's budgets and service contracts, and line manage the Estates team. You will develop and manage the College's energy management policy, advise on the use of professional services in connection with estates services, and will take responsibility for buildings & grounds maintenance and security for the insurance of the premises and assets. To be successful, you will have a relevant professional qualification such as RICS, RIBA, MBIFM, or MIMechE, as well as professional qualifications in the area of Estates Management. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate considerable and successful estates management experience. You will have demonstrable experience of managing change with a commitment to continuous improvement, as well as having direct experience of line managing staff, budgets and resource management. Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, have a high level of interpersonal skills and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College. You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities. Staff benefits include: Pensions and LIfe Assurance Scheme, Sports Hall and Gym, Proximity to main bus/train stations, Generous Holiday Allowance, Close to City Centre, Staff discount scheme.
TO APPLY:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Tel: 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone)
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
15 January 2008 at 12 noon

JOB TITLE:
Faculty Head Engineering and Construction
LOCATION:
Canterbury
SALARY:
No less than £40,622 per annum
COMPANY:
Canterbury College
We are seeking an individual of the highest calibre to help achieve our goal of being one of the best FE College by 2010. You will be responsible for the operational delivery of the strategic plan within the Engineering & Construction Faculty, and will ensure a quality provision and suitable curriculum development to aid the learner experience. You will also play a key role in contributing to the development of the College's strategic & development plans, and will lead and inspire a team of Section Managers. As a College we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of both young people and vulnerable adults, and the promotion of this will form an integral part of your role. You will have significant experience in education leadership and people management, and will have the leadership skills to set the highest possible standards, both within your Faculty and throughout the College. In return, we will offer you the rewards and support you would expect at such a senior level. Staff benefits include: Pensions and LIfe Assurance Scheme, Sports Hall and Gym, Proximity to main bus/train stations, Generous Holiday Allowance, Close to City Centre, Staff discount scheme
TO APPLY:
Personnel Office
Canterbury College
Tel: 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
15 January 2008 at 12 noon

JOB TITLE:
Head of Care and Reducing Re-offending
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
£29,184 - £43,927
COMPANY:
HM Prison Service
As a key member of the Senior Management Team, you will be tasked with developing, implementing and managing the arrangements for the reduction of re-offending. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a new team providing innovative solutions for young people in custody to provide a safe environment for them and to help them break the cycle of re-offending. It is essential that you have a sound knowledge of the resettlement needs of young people being released from custody and a good working knowledge of safeguarding processes. Extensive experience of working with young people is essential and also of managing a multi-disciplinary team. Social work qualifications are desirable. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist. Completed applications should be returned to James Restall, Kent & Sussex Areas Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3PZ.
TO APPLY:
James Restall
HM Prison Service
Tel: 01634 673036
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd January 2008

JOB TITLE:
Nurse
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
£19,288 - £23,293
COMPANY:
HM Prison Service
A nurse with post-registration experience is needed to provide offenders with nursing and healthcare services that promote self care, personal well being and that will enable them to take responsibility for their own health. You must be able to work autonomously within a prison setting and supervise junior members of the team. With evidence of continuing professional development, it is desirable that you have skills in phlebotomy, suturing, triage and minor injuries/illnesses, chronic disease management and experience of working with those that self-harm and crisis intervention for primary care mental health. Completed applications should be returned to James Restall, Kent & Sussex Areas Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3PZ. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.
TO APPLY:
James Restall
HM Prison Service
Tel: 01634 673036
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
CLOSING DATE
2nd January 2008

JOB TITLE:
School Crossing Patrol
LOCATION:
Sittingbourne
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Bobbing Village School
5 hours a week. 8.30 - 9.00 am, 3.05 - 3.35p.m. Term time only.
TO APPLY:
Bobbing Village School
Tel: 01795 423939
Email
manager@bobbing.kent.sch.uk

RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES

JOB TITLE:
Sales Consultant
LOCATION:
Tonbridge
SALARY:
£12,000-£14,000 P.A + Com
COMPANY:
County Bed Company (The)
Following our successful store opening in 2006, we will shortly be opening our second store in Tonbridge. We specialize in selling Beds, Bedframes, Mattresses and Futons and are looking for an outgoing, friendly person who can learn quickly. This will be a full or part-time position. Upto 40 hours a week working 5 out of 7 days. Please send your CV to: - David Cheeseman, The County Bed Company, 133 High Street, Strood, Kent, ME2 4TJ.
TO APPLY:
County Bed Company (The)
Tel: 01634 722228
Email contactus
@thecountybedcompany.com
CLOSING DATE
24th December 2007

JOB TITLE:
Shop Assistant
LOCATION:
Rochester
SALARY:
£6.25 p/h
COMPANY:
Rochester & Cobham Park Golf Club
Required to work in busy professional golf shop. Work will involve manual handling, approx 25-30 hours a week including weekend work. Please contact: Mr David Smith, Rochester & Cobham Park Golf Club, Park Pale, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3UL.
TO APPLY:
Rochester & Cobham Park Golf
Tel: 01474 823411
Email rcpgc@talk21.com

TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

JOB TITLE:
Bus Drivers
LOCATION:
Maidstone
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Arriva Southern Counties
We are looking for enthusiastic, customer-focused individuals to join our existing team of bus drivers based at our Maidstone Depot. We can offer: Free uniform, Quality pension scheme, Excellent career opportunities, Free bus travel for you and your family. There are full-time vacancies at our Maidstone garage. We also welcome applications from car licence holders who wish to join our PCV driver training. Come to our Open Day at Maidstone Depot, Armstrong Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6TX on Sunday 16th December 2007 09:30 - 14:30 (All you need to bring with you is your current full driving licence).
TO APPLY:
Arriva Southern Counties
Tel: 0845 600 1415
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

JOB TITLE:
Transport and Warehouse Manager
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Howard Hunt Group
The successful candidate will have thorough knowledge and experience in this area and be able to develop and improve existing systems and staff skills. Please submit a C.V to Sue Hinder, Human Resources, Howard Hunt Group, Bridge House, Edisons Park, Dartford, Kent DA2 6QP.
TO APPLY:
Howard Hunt Group
Email sueh@howardhuntgroup.com

JOB TITLE:
Transport Co-ordinator
LOCATION:
Dartford
SALARY:
TBC
COMPANY:
Howard Hunt Group
Applicants would have some experience of sourcing transport and grouping deliveries efficiently as well as basic PC skills. Please submit a C.V to Sue Hinder, Human Resources, Howard Hunt Group, Bridge House, Edisons Park, Dartford, Kent DA2 6QP.
TO APPLY:
Howard Hunt Group
Email sueh@howardhuntgroup.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUILDWELL PROPERTY SERVICES LIMITED
Company No: 5768536

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, on 9 January 2008, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act, that is the nomination of a Liquidator and the appointment of a Liquidation Committee.
Proxy forms to be used for the purposes of the above meeting must be lodged, accompanied by Statements of Claim, at the registered office of the Company situated at Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day prior to the date of the meeting.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Andrew Tate and Nedim Ailyan of Abbott Fielding, Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above Company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Date: 7 December 2007
By Order of the Board
John Ford, Chairman

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Court Stairs Manor, Pegwell Road, Ramsgate
Applicant: Julie Elder

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford
Head of Registration, Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

PUBLIC NOTICE

A building certified for worship named Jubilee Community Centre, George Street, Maidstone in the registration district of Kent, in the Non-Metropolitan County of Kent, was on 30 October 2007 registered for solemnising marriages therein pursuant to section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by Section1 (1) of the Marriages Acts Amendment Act, 1958. In lieu of Jubilee Church YMCA, Melrose Close, Maidstone now disused and the registration cancelled thereof.
Superintendent Registrar
10 December 2007

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Forward Plan of Key Decisions.
Under the Council's Constitution, each month the Leader of the Council will prepare a forward plan containing details of the key decisions to be made by the Cabinet during the four month period following its publication. Each plan will contain a list of documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration in relation to the key decisions on the plan, although other documents not listed in the plan may also be considered. The dates when the forward plans will be published are 17 December 2007 and 17 January, 14 February, 17 March, 16 April, 16 May, 16 June, 17 July,
15 August, 16 September, 17 October, 14 November and 17 December 2008.
Copies of the Council's constitution and of each forward plan will be available for inspection by members of the public free of charge during normal office hours at the Council's principal office at Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ and at Tonbridge Castle. The forward plan is also viewable on the Council's website.

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Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, DISTRICT OF DOVER)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) (No. 4) TEMPORARY ORDER 2007
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because surfacing works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in Column 1 of the Schedule hereto on or after 17th December 2007 for an estimated period of 44 weeks or until such works are completed. The initial works will be the pre-patching of damaged carriageway, followed at a later date by surfacing works. Both sets of works will be kept to a minimum period. The Order will continue in force for a period not exceeding eighteen months at such times and to such extent as shall be indicated by traffic signs.

The alternative route for each route described in Column 1 of the Schedule hereto is described in Column 2 of that Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Column 1 The affected route	Column 2 The alternative route
1. C473 Capel Farm Lane, Capel-le-Ferne From its junction with Capel Street for its entire length	1. No diversion route
2. D1874 Pinners Hill, Nonington Between its junction with Palm Tree Lane/ Ackholt Road and its junction with Pinners Lane/Beachamps Lane	2. Ackholt Road, Old Court Hill and Pinners Lane
3. D1809 Longmete Road, Preston Between its junction with junction with Mill Lane	3. Mill Lane and The Street Preston Lane and its
4. D1807 Ware Road, Ware Between its junction with Paramour Street and its junction with Sheerwater Road	4. Molland Lane, A257 Ash By-pass, Nash Road and Overland Lane
5. Kingsdown Road/ Cliffe Road, Walmer/ Kingsdown Between its junction with Hawkshill Road, Walmer and its junction with Upper Street, Kingsdown	5. Walmer approach Granville Road, A258 Dover Road, Ringwould Road and The Rise Ringwould approach The Rise, Glen Road, Liverpool Road, Granville Road and Kingsdown Road
6. Hall Crescent, Sholden From its junction with London Road for its entire length	6. No diversion route

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2007
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because crane lifting works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Ramsgate Road, Sandwich from the junction with A256 to the junction with Monks Way on or after 21 December 2007 for an estimated period of one day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A256 and Monks Way.

Highways - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(NEWTOWN ROAD, ASHFORD)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2007
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Newtown Road, Ashford from approx 42m west of Newtown Railway Bridge to a point approx 110m east of Newtown Railway Bridge on or after Wednesday 2 January 2008 for an estimated period of up to 10 months or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for eastbound traffic is via A2042 Romney Marsh Road, A2042 Bad Munstereifel Road, A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road, The Boulevard (U23475), Crowbridge Road (C623), Newtown Road (C623) with westbound being vice versa.

Kent Highway Services and Ashford's Future apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway/footway widening and the reconstruction of the existing railway bridge. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nigel Harper C/O Jacobs UK Limited on 01622 666189.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HEATH LANE,DARTFORD
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2007
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Heath Lane, Dartford between its junctions with Princes Road and Highfield Road.

The Order will become effective on 17th December 2007, for a period of five weeks or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Heath Lane, Princes Road and Highfield Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the construction of speed cushions.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND WAITING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council **has made** an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in Column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto.

The alternative route for each route described in Column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto is described in Column 2 of that Schedule.

The Order will come into operation on Monday 7th. January 2008 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is sooner. The works are scheduled to commence on Monday 7th. January 2008 and are programmed for completion within an estimated period of twelve weeks.

SCHEDULE 1

The affected routes (Column 1)	The alternative routes (Column 2)
C65 Vicarage Road, Yalding from Yalding Hill to West Street. When required up to twenty-four hours per day Monday to Sunday	Eastbound traffic via B2010 Yalding Hill/Smiths Hill, B2163 Ewell Lane/Heath Road, C65 Hunton Hill/ West Street. Westbound traffic vice versa.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND WAITING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on the routes described in Column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto.

The alternative route for each route described in Column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto is described in Column 2 of that Schedule.

The Order will come into operation on Monday 7th. January 2008 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is sooner. The works are scheduled to commence on Monday 7th. January 2008 and are programmed for completion within an estimated period of twelve weeks.

SCHEDULE 1

The affected routes (Column 1)	The alternative routes (Column 2)
C258 Headcorn Road, Platts Heath from Lenham Road to Eastwood Road. When required up to twenty-four hours per day Monday to Sunday	Southbound traffic via C83 Lenham Road, C85 Ulcombe Hill/The Street, C85 Eastwood Road and Lenham Road. Northbound traffic vice versa.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FURNACE LANE. LAMBERHURST)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2007
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Furnace Lane, Lamberhurst on or after Monday 21st January 2008 for an estimated period of 12 Weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative routes for the route described above are for westbound traffic via Spray Hill, High Street, Town Hill and The Slade and eastbound traffic vice versa.

Mid Kent Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary, to allow for a new water main and should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Nicola Stone on 01634 873290.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TEA GARDEN LANE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2007
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Tea Garden Lane at a point outside Hillside to Rusthall Farm when required on or after Wednesday 2nd January 2008 for a period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Langton Road, Major Yorks Road, Hungershall Park, High Rocks Lane, Tea Garden Lane and for northbound traffic vice versa.

John Jarvis Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works which are necessary to reconstruct a stone wall. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Mr B Scott on 01892 539666.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HORN STREET, HYTHE)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2007
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because water utility works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Horn Street, Hythe as described in column 2 of the Schedule to this Order on or after 2 January 2008 for an estimated period as described in column 4 of the Schedule to this Order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the Schedule to this Order.

THE SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative routes	Programmed date
Phase 1 Horn Street, Hythe	From the junction with Seabrook Vale to the junction with Spring Lane	Seabrook Road, Sandgate Esplanade, Sandgate High Street, Military Road, North Road, Pond Hill Road and Church Road	2 January 2008 for two months
Phase 2 Horn Street, Hythe	From the junction with Spring Lane to the junction with Valley Walk.	Naildown Road, High Ridge and Spring Lane	27 February 2008 for two months

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(EBBSFLEET LANE, MINSTER)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2007
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because track renewal works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Ebbsfleet Lane, Minster at Sevenscore level crossing on or after 30 December 2007 for an estimated period as described in column 3 of the Schedule to this Order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A256 Sandwich Road, A299 Canterbury Road West and Thorne Hill.

THE SCHEDULE

Specified Road	length of road affected	Duration	Programmed date
Ebbsfleet Lane, Minster	Sevenscore Level Crossing	Between the hours of 1am and 6.10am	30 December 2007
Ebbsfleet Lane, Minster	Sevenscore Level Crossing	Between 2.25am on 5 January 2008 and 11.50 on 6 January 2008	5 January 2008
Ebbsfleet Lane, Minster	Sevenscore Level Crossing	Between 2.25am on 12 January 2008 and 11.50 on 13 January 2008	12 January 2008
Ebbsfleet Lane, Minster	Sevenscore Level Crossing	Between 2.25am on 8 March 2008 and 6pm on 9 March 2008	8 March 2008

For further information, please contact Geoff Harrison-Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

one plus one

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WOMEN for MEN

NATASHA, 21, 5'8", WLTM Mr Right. Single mum of 1, like shopping, clubbing, relaxing... Why don't we do these things together? We can if you call! Box 901622 P

24YR old single mother of 2, very bubbly and fun to be with, looking for happy-go-lucky guy to show me a good time. Box 432026

CRYSTAL, 24, brunette, blue eyes, petite, likes music, art, films, swimming, country walks, WLTM friendly guy for friendship maybe more. Box 432236

FULL-TIME mum, 26, loves pubs, clubs, cinema, family days out, GSOH, likes socialising, relaxing, looking for honest, loyal, fun, romantic person who's a N/S. Box 900347 P

LIVELY female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555

BUBBLY single mum, 25, 5'5", brown hair/green eyes, chef, likes cinema, clubbing, meals out, socialising, seeks caring male, 25-38, for a loving relationship. Ashford. Box 403593

SINGLE mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 406670

CAROLINE, 32, 5ft10, brown hair, likes going out, having fun, cinema, seeks outgoing male for friendship and more. Box 430833 P

SUSAN, 33, long hair, hazel eyes, tanned, enjoys the usual things in life, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 429879

HI, I'm Annabelle, 32, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, divorced, 2 children, WLTM a tall, local man, enjoys sport, shopping and relaxing. Tonbridge. Box 420609

MUM of 2 boys, 32, GSOH, easygoing, seeking an honest, genuine man. Get in touch soon x. Box 432066

MUM of 1, I'm 5ft4, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH. I like keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559 P

OUTGOING, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, East Peckham, nr Tonbridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship leading to more. Box 433107 P

LOVING, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher, WLTM caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50 with good values in life, for something meaningful. Box 422460

AFRICAN lady, 33, brown eyes, likes socialising, music, pubs, cinema, seeks male for friendship and more. Box 413128

ACTIVE, affectionate female, 35, 5ft3, blonde, blue eyes, likes cinema, walking, cycling, swimming, watching wrestling, WLTM tall, dark & handsome bloke. Box 430932

MANDY, 38, lovely brunette, petite & slim, very tactile & bubbly, professional mum, WLTM honest, romantic N/S man. Box 432639

HONEST, caring lady, attractive, from Tunbridge Wells, 37, hazel eyes, curvy, 5ft6, with a GSOH, many interests, clubs, cooking, cosy nights. Looking for stocky male, 35-45. Box 424364 P

KENT female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862

DECENT 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating & having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664

39YR old single mum, own house, 5'7", brown hair, seeking a kind-hearted man for companionship. Box 433637

KIND, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 899694 P

DIVORCED, affectionate lady, 40, large build, 5'6", love staying in, cinema, looking for a thoughtful male to share good things in life, leading to LTR. Box 430332

KAREN, 41, slim, 5'6", big brown eyes, very laid back, likes most things in life, would love to meet someone with the same outlook. Box 901692 P

KIND woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy. I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford. Box 428464

HARD-WORKING female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

DEAL-BASED lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384 P

PETITE, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTM N/S man to share things with. Box 429682

PLEASANT female, 43, medium/large build, blue/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, wining, seeks sincere male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 429071

MELVIS, 44, looking for an understanding, sensitive man. I enjoy music and being adventurous. Box 431913

WARM, radiant, witty, intelligent, attractive, black female, Christian, 44, likes music, jazz, travel, art, restaurants, theatre, seeking a cultured, N/S, intelligent, solvent gentleman. Box 433075

FRIENDLY, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, pubs, music, eating in/out, own home/car, smoker, looking for honest man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 823441 P

44YR old female, 5'5", brown hair, slim/medium build, enjoys pubs, clubs, if you are out there, give me a ring! Maidstone. Box 413448

45YR old medium build, attractive lady, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes dining out, meals, cinema, WLTM a trustworthy, loyal male to share my life with. Box 426617

BUSY, energetic female, 45, 5ft2, blonde, blue eyes, size 12, professional, likes swimming, holiday, relaxing, walking, seeks down-to-earth guy. Box 428633 P

BLONDE haired, attractive female, 46, 5ft4, slim, GSOH, seeking good-looking, slim, kind, trendy male, 35-45, with a GSOH, and fantastic personality. Sheerness. Box 432618

EVEN-TEMPERED, kind female, 45, 5'2", slim, green eyes, brown hair, likes cinema, restaurants, walking, animals, seeks confident, romantic male for fun and maybe more. Box 378907

BUBBLY, caring, single mum, 46, WLTM nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829

HI, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WLTM compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 432992

YOUNG-LOOKING, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving & outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out & staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833

FUN African woman, 49, likes walking, places of interest, seeks similar male, GSOH, to share interests with possibly more. Ashford. Box 429269

LOVING and loyal 49yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-56 for friendship. Box 909974

ATTRACTIVE, blonde woman, 5'4", 49, enjoys the gym, cooking, cinema, theatre, travel and restaurants, seeks male for friendship. Box 388091 P

PRIMROSE, 51, divorced with 3 children and 2 grandchildren. I'm 5ft2, with dark hair, looking for someone for companionship. Box 433580

LOYAL, bubbly and affectionate, attractive lady, 51, dark hair, enjoy clubs, nights in, love animals, seeking a like-minded gent for happiness. Box 433585

SUE, 51, slim, blue eyes, brunette, ladies hairdresser, looking for someone special. How about you? Box 431904

YOUNG-LOOKING 51yr old woman, seeking a kind, genuine man, between 48-51, for fun and friendship, maybe romance. Box 432406

SLIM female, 51, long dark brown hair, brown eyes, 5ft6, well groomed, very easygoing and tactile, GSOH, enjoys socialising, nights in/out, eating out, cinema walks. Box 434052

48YR old divorcee, 5'5", dark hair, hazel eyes, like dancing, music, cinema, days/nights out. WLTM a man who would like to share some good times. Box 901027 P

FEMALE, 51, 5'6", attractive, redhead, green eyes, seeking professional, male soulmate, 45-55. West Kent. Box 477686

BRIGHT, bubbly lady, 52, 5'4", blonde hair, recently divorced, own home and car, enjoy cinema, eating out, drinks, looking for companionship and friendship. Box 419966

LONELY, honest lady, 52, enjoy walks, cycling, travel, WLTM sociable gent to share interests and possibly leading to LTR. Box 399420

BLONDE female, 54, 5ft5, cuddly, seeking friendship, with someone who can make me laugh. Fed up of being alone. Snodland. Box 433682

SPONTANEOUS, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854

ATTRACTIVE, homely, caring 55yr old lady, 5'2", slim/medium build, GSOH, good conversationalist, looking for special person to share life's ups and downs with. Faversham. Box 406928

CANTERBURY lady, 56, recently divorced, looking for a genuine relationship. I like gardening, home life, going out, seeking a male companion. Box 428242

56YR old lady, well-built, 5'5", N/S, GSOH, funny nature, like films, theatre, eating out, WLTM N/S man, 56-60ish, to make her laugh again. Medway/Maidstone area. Box 412127

YOUNG-AT-HEART, lively, sociable lady, 56, 5'6", blue eyes, blonde, GSOH, WLTM understanding, down-to-earth gent, for company, maybe romance. Box 403745

FUN loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903560 P

YOUNG, 57yr old modern female widow, slim, enjoys nights in/out, socialising, seeking honest, reliable man for friendship, love, affection and TLC. Box 920739

FRIENDLY female 56, likes most things in life, cinema, clubs, pubs, WLTM tall, sincere, caring male, for friendship and good times. Box 320642

SOLVENT, cuddly female, 59, 5'1", love the countryside, foreign travel, seeks happy, solvent male, 50s-62, for affection and TLC. Box 394179

WIDOWED woman, 61, no ties, positive outlook, kind nature with GSOH, like the usual things and would like to find a male counterpart. Box 431210

BRUNETTE lady, 61, looking for a LTR, friendship first, any age considered. Interests: dancing walking, socialising, cuddling! Margate. Box 432246

VERY caring, young at heart, black lady, 63, varied interests, GSOH seeking a N/S, caring gentleman, 58-69, to share happy times. Box 424122

CARING, loyal and young-at-heart lady, 65, 5ft, blonde hair, looking for someone nice, friendly, who likes eating out, restaurants, holidays, for company. Box 899242

WIDOW, 69, looking for a nice, kind, caring man, to be a companion. I've got blue eyes, brown hair and I'm in a wheel chair. Box 431529



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CARING female, 70, 5ft7, blonde with blue eyes, slim, widowed, very young & active, likes playing darts, socialising, oil painting, animals, seeks male counterpart. Box 432568

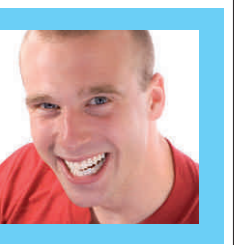
Women for women

LOVING, young 25yr old female with a kind heart and passion for life, short hair, blue eyes, like music, socialising, seeks a like-minded female. Box 431117

28YR old friendly female, brown hair/eyes, enjoy keeping fit, sociable events, clubs, dancing, music, WLTM like-minded, slim, attractive woman. Box 432921

HI, I'm an attractive 39 yr old feminine female, looking for a caring female for friendship and fun. Box 899207

CUDDLY, buxom female, 46, blue eyes, very feminine, loves music, animals, reading, writing, stars, very genuine, meals in/out, seeking boyish female, who's loving and caring. Box 433152



MEN for WOMEN

BIG and kind-hearted, I'm 22, large build, 6ft4, into cycling and swimming, cinema, restaurants, cosy nights in, WLTM women between 20-30 for friendship and more... Box 898855 P

HARD-WORKING male,. 5ft10, brown hair/eyes, looking for a quiet, down-to-earth female, who enjoys, sports and going out. Box 434255

25 year old male, likes cinema, the beach, looking for lovely girls in Ashford and surrounding area. Box 425578

PE teacher, male, blond hair/blue eyes, 27, 6ft, athletic build, looking for an attractive, fun, intelligent woman. Maidstone. Box 428981

SWEET guy, 31, 5ft8, athletic build, looking for a possible long term relationship, or fun dates out. Box 898885 P

32YR old down-2-earth, happy-go-lucky, considerate male, looking for a lively female to share happy moments with. Box 434239

FUN-LOVING male, 31, 6ft, blue eyes/fair hair, stocky-muscular build, seeks similar female to enjoy life with. Maidstone. Box 160084

EASYGOING male, 31, 5'10", slim, blue eyes, blond hair, likes restaurants, cinema, motor sports, seeks kind, loving female for friendship and happiness. Box 390194

WICKED sense of humour, old romantic, likes cycling, walking, live music, club/pubs. Sound good? I'm male, 35, seeking lady for friendship possibly more. Ramsgate. Box 908588 P

ROCHESTER male, 36, 6ft5, medium/muscular build, shoulder length dark hair, brown eyes, hobbies include weight training, keeping fit, have daughter, seeking medium/large lady. Box 428552 P

36YR old honest, kind, caring, single male, blond hair, 6ft, like walks, cinema, nights in/out, enjoy family life, WLTM like-minded, genuine female. Box 430440 P

DOWN to earth and loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company & conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 P

GOOD-LOOKING male 35, 5'8", no ties, enjoys pubs, restaurants, holidays, bowling, theme parks and more, seeks petite female, to share good times with. Ashford. Box 198029

JASON, 38, 5ft8, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cycling, seeks genuine female for friendship and good times. Box 433326

ROMANTIC male, 38, 6ft, blue eyes, medium/muscular build, enjoy socialising, cosy nights in, music, looking for a loving, fun-filled female for happiness. Chatham. Box 433795

DIVORCED male, 38, 5ft10, blue eyes, no ties, likes motor sports, the gym, country pubs, wine bars, cycling, seeks spontaneous, fun woman for fun/laughter. Box 434217

DARREN, 38, loving, caring & trustworthy, 5ft8, medium build, enjoys most things in life, seeks fun loving lady to enjoy life with. Box 434234

FRIENDLY male, 37, enjoys the usual things in life, seeks curvy, nice female, for friendship and more. Box 359467

SINGLE male, 39 years old, 2 sons, very interested in all kinds of sports, seeking a lovely lady. Box 899774 P

HI, I'm a down-2-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves outdoors, sports, beach walks etc, WLTM an outgoing female for good times. Box 899004

FUN-LOVING male, 39, 5'10", muscular build, enjoys most things in life, seeks female, who enjoys a laugh, for fun, friendship, possible LTR. Box 395339

ATTRACTIVE, independent, professional male, 40, OHAC, loves wining/dining, the sun, holidays, cinema, pubs occasionally, seeking a fun, sincere, loving female, to enjoy each others company. Box 434103

SINGLE male, 40 years old, 5ft4, medium build, dark hair, brown eyes, looking for a bubbly, adventurous female, who's fun to be with. Box 433540 P

HI, I'm a relaxed, hard-working male, enjoy driving out, cinema, meals out, looking for my soulmate for fun times and companionship. Box 433353

HI, I'm Gary, 40yr old male, 5'11", muscular, tall, dark hair, enjoys most sports, looking for lady to share the finer things in life. Box 430142

NICE guy, 40, enjoys life, having fun, going out, staying in, loves motorsports, looking for a nice lady, to spend time with/more. Snodland. Box 422668 P

THOUGHTFUL male, 41, 6ft, shaved head, blue eyes, medium to stocky build, looking for a caring female to share good times. Box 899053 P

GREAT guy, young looking 42, no ties. I'm 5ft7, stocky build, fit, short hair/hazel eyes, been called handsome! I'm sporty, a non-smoker and enjoy holidays. Box 431226 P

SLIM male, 42, 5ft11, genuine, reliable, N/S, likes all the usual things in life, WLTM genuine, down-to-earth lady, for friendship, dates, relationship. Gillingham area. Box 425419 P

WARM, tactile male, 42, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

HONEST, tactile, romantic male 42, 5'10", green eyes, varied interests, the gym, wining, dining out, seeks female/single mum, 30-45, for friendship and more. Box 390669 P

RELIABLE, thoughtful, professional male, 42, 6'2", dark hair, hazel eyes, GSOH, enjoys music, sports, cinema, meals out, WLTM like-minded, attractive female for friendship, possibly more. Box 397492

MICHAEL, 43, 5ft8, medium build, dark hair/eyes, hardworking, likes cooking, sports, disco, walking, seeks similar female for good company. Box 427395

CARING, understanding, honest 43 year old male, enjoys walks, swimming, reading, seeking a 45-55 year old lady. Chatham. Box 429701

TALL, fun-loving, good-looking former athlete, 44, lived in USA many years, likes music, sports cars, looking for dark haired or exotic lady, GSOH, for LTR.Ashford. Box 430121

GOOD looking male, 42, 6'2", well built, muscular, fit, enjoys cars, motorbike, golf, rugby, socialising, travel, seeks female for friendship, leading to serious relationship. Box 158489

SINCERE, stocky southern Irish guy, skinhead, no ties, 43, enjoys motor racing, pubs, cinema, the good life, discos, seeks lady to share life with. Kent. Box 417532

YOUNG-AT-HEART 44yr old male, blond hair, blue eyes, easygoing nature, likes eating out, music, cinema etc, WLTM adventurous, witty, fit female for possible LTR. Box 432940

HONEST, sincere, reliable male, 44, 5ft7, medium build, likes sports, music, beach walks, country pubs. Box 433914

44-YEAR-OLD man, interests include socialising, days out, keeping fit, days out, seeking a caring, honest female, to share fun times. Box 433992

45YR old thoughtful, reliable male, 5'2", GSOH, gentle personality, love pubs, nights in, gardening etc, WLTM a like-minded, caring lady for companionship. Box 431171

PROFESSIONAL male, 45, own home/car, likes cinemas, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 426202

HI, I'm 44 years old, with short light brown hair and blue eyes .I enjoy cinema/theatre, pubs and meals out, walks and weekends away. Box 903358 P

46YR male, 5ft7, enjoys cinema, socialising, meals out, long walks on the beach, looking for a special lady, for fun, friendship, maybe more. Box 432611

LAID-BACK guy. 46 years old, kids all grown up, looking for friendship, perhaps leading to more with a lady 36-50, with or without kids. Box 433410

WARM, sincere, N/S, eligible, stimulating, male, 46, well groomed, OHAC, 5'10", slim/medium, settled but playful, seeks similar lady to share LTR and smiles. Box 924095 P

YOUTHFUL dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, WLTM female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook. Box 737529

TONY, 48, 5ft7, medium build, likes wining/dining, music, walks, movies and nights in, looking for someone romantic to share my life with hopefully. Box 430219

ORDINARY guy, 49, who likes the simple things in life. I smoke and don't drive. Looking for a partner to share things with. Box 901111

GENTLE, honest man, 50, dark hair, 5'8". GSOH, looking for sincere, loving lady for a meaningful relationship. Try me. Gillingham. Box 901199 P

OLIVE skinned, 6ft tall, 50yr old man, with short hair and a GSOH seeking down to earth lady to share happy times. Box 914972

ALAN, 53yr old widower, medium build, own home/car, would like to meet sincere, genuine woman, interested in gardening, motorbikes, pubs/social drinking. Box 900317

SENSITIVE, loyal, attentive, playful male, 51, enjoys gym, live music, cinema, meals out, walks, conversation, WLTM female, 45-65 for trust, friendship/possible relationship. Whitstable. Box 181246

DECENT, loyal man, 53, was a great husband/father, 53, love life, hard-working, looking for Miss Right, to share life with. Box 915412 P

YOUNG 54yr old single male, no ties, generally easygoing, likes most things in life, WLTM lady to enjoy nice times, good company/relationship. Box 429955 P

GARY, 55 years old, 6'3", large build, ex doorman, solvent, looking for someone to love and to have fun times with. Box 900009 P

PASSIONATE, fun-loving male, 57, WLTM curvaceous, good looking female, 40-60, for nice times and romantic nights out. Box 400561

DECENT bloke, 60yrs old. I'm 5ft6, medium build, and enjoy gardening, music, reading. I have a GSOH and I'm just missing that special lady. Box 423558

HI, I'm a genuine, tall, good looking, easygoing, retired, tactile male, 60, GSOH, looking for fun, intelligent lady, 45+, to share my life with. Box 434226

ROGER, 60, 5ft11, blue eyes, loves life and having fun, seeks happy, content lady for TLC. Box 431025

VERY loving, tactile, caring male, 59, GSOH, genuine and honest, WLTM female for friendship and possible romance. Jan, please leave contact details. Box 165276

OPEN and honest 64 year old, divorced male, enjoys walks and talks, meals in or out, seeks lady of similar disposition, for friendship possibly more. Box 898863

QUITE fit male, 60s, 5'9", easygoing, N/S, GSOH, own home/car, enjoys dancing, country pubs, holidays, meals out, WLTM lady for friendship. Box 430793

EASYGOING, fun male, 68yr old widower, GSOH, looking for a nice, bubbly female to share outings and maybe more together. Dover. Box 414847

ASHFORD man, 68, affectionate, easygoing, enjoys music, walking, cosy nights in, seeking an attractive lady, for genuine companionship. Box 422246

Men for men

MIXED race male, 34, 5'11", average build, like going out, sports etc. looking for fun, friendship, maybe more with younger guy. Ashford/surrounding area. Box 900477

36 year old man, 5ft10, blue eyes, shaved head, enjoys pubs, clubs, staying in, looking for a loyal male, to have fun times with. Box 430380

I'M Paul, 40, genuine, down-2-earth, 5'9", GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, average build, likes movies, DIY, theatre, keeping fit, travelling, looking for young male, non-smoker. Box 423252 P

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CONFIDENT female, 28, 5ft8, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, into most things in life, seeks genuine guy for friendship and more. Box 434229

ATTRACTIVE female, 29, size 8-10, 5'8", long hair/blue eyes, enjoys gym, cinema, dancing, seeking honest, reliable male 27-38 with a GSOH, for friendship possible LTR. Box 410494 P

SINGLE mum, 29, 5ft1, brown hair/blue eyes. I'm new to Margate, and I'm looking for a guy with a GSOH. I enjoy going out, socialising etc. Box 431105

BEAUTIFUL, black, curvy female, 30, WLTM honest, genuine man, for a relationship and maybe more. Folkestone. Box 408865

SINGLE lady, 31 years old, Maidstone area, enjoys cinema, going for drives, looking for an easygoing male for friendship, maybe more? Box 422222

BLACK, beautiful, curvy, single mum, 31, enjoys outdoors, cooking, home-life, cosy nights in, eating out, cinema looking for tall, sincere gentleman for friendship/relationship. Box 432283

HONEST, loyal, caring lady, 32, hard-working, 5ft8, medium build, likes eating out, spending time with friends/family, meeting new people, going to new places, seeking similar. Box 432586

SINCERE female, 32, 5ft2, blonde, blue eyes, family lady, enjoys clubbing, cinema, cooking, animals, seeks like minded male for friendship/relationship. Box 433214

32YR old kind, warm female, 5'6", cuddly build, love walking my dog, cosy nights in, evenings out, WLTM tall, honest, trustworthy male for friendship. Box 430993

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CREATIVE, happy, loving female, 32, 5ft, blonde/blue eyes, seeks kind, warm, sincere, patient male, with a car, to share my life with. Box 392354

SINGLE parent of 4 kids, 35, 5ft6 and long hair with blue eyes, looking for friendly guy for friendship and maybe more. Box 900447

SINCERE female, 35, 5ft3, brunette, likes the gym, staying in, seeks mixed race, tall male for friendship and more. Box 433256

INDEPENDENT, professional female, 35, 5'7", fit, GSOH, enjoy travelling, cinema, looking for a like-minded, honest and loyal male to share life with. Box 901771 P

SINGLE 36yr old female, like most things in life, very loving and caring, 5'5", cuddly build, good personality, seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 431286

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

HAPPY, bubbly, positive female, 37 years old, outgoing, loving, caring, loyal, quite spiritual, into dance music, trance, cooking, the countryside, looking for soul mate. Box 433539

SINGLE mum of 2, 37, caring and loving, 5ft4, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, enjoys most things in life. Box 898868

36YR old nurse, enjoys fun and laughter, travel, nights in/out, music, dancing, reading, theatre. Seeking man for company, maybe more. East Kent. Box 912176 P

CHATTY female, 36, 5'4", single mum, blonde, slim, likes pubs, clubs, going out, having fun, seeks male, for fun nights out and giggles. Rochester. Box 372889 P

ATTRACTIVE 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, with curves, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks exciting, fun male for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 P

ATTRACTIVE, trendy, outgoing, warm female, 30, dark brown eyes are a big feature, curvy but slim, like country pubs etc, WLTM spontaneous male for LTR. Box 403299 P



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Mazda's new '6' aims to take on Germany's finest

By **STEVE LOADER**

THERE has been big talk about whether Ford's all-new upmarket Mondeo can counter-attack big names from Germany.

Cars like the BMW 3-Series, Mercedes C-Class and Audi A4 have helped drive down UK volumes of the once-dominant Ford.

It has also had competition closer to home from Mazda; though Ford has a stake in the Japanese marque, there can be no doubt the original Mazda6 also competed strongly with its Ford sister as well as sparking a restoration of Mazda fortunes globally.

And its replacement, arriving in showrooms now, looks likely to maintain momentum on both fronts and be even better placed than the Ford to attack the German trio.

Building on its predecessor's strengths – practicality, space, pricing, sporting style and handling – the new car also looks even better built and designed.

Rather than being a spin-off from the Mondeo, the newcomer is very much an in-house product and exemplifies Mazda's current creed of building in lightness and responsiveness – good for the driver, running costs and the environment.

Interior quality and overall engineering have been the priorities in what Mazda calls an "emotional and sporty" design to create an "exclusive experience".

But good ideas from the old car have also been carried over; one of the best and most practical features was the Karakuri rear seat folding system that uses a single lever to fold the rear seats flat, without fiddling with belts or head restraints – some other makers should pick up on that one.

In keeping with the greener image sought by Mazda across its range, the lively, but thirsty, 2.3-litre petrol engine in the old car has been ditched in favour of an all-new 2.5-litre unit that uses nearly seven per cent less fuel than the 2.3 engine yet develops fractionally more power and in a more refined manner.

However, the 1.8-litre and 2.0-litre petrol and excellent 2.0-litre diesel units are carried over from before and consume between 6.7 per cent and 11.7 per cent less fuel than before.

A choice of three body styles will be offered once more – saloon, hatchback and estate – but all are longer, taller and wider with a longer wheelbase.

Aerodynamics have also been improved, while minimal gaps between body panels suggest quality and robustness.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda Range are: Urban 18.1 (15.6) - 47.9 (5.9), Extra Urban 32.5 (8.7) - 68.9 (4.1), Combined 25.2 (11.2) - 60.1 (4.7). The official CO_2 emissions are g/km 124 - 284.

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07 206 LOOK 1.4, 5 doors, A/C, DELIVERY MILEAGE Choice of 6 £7745
56 206 Verve 1.4 HDI, 5 door, LOW TAX, Iron Grey, 4k NOW £7995
07 206 Look 1.4 HDI, 5 door, LOW TAX, Diablo Red £8495

206 STATION WAGON 0% Typical APR finance available.*
05 206 S 1.4 SW, Moonstone metallic, Air con, 10k £6775
54 206 S HDI 90 SW, Aluminium, Air Con, CD, 25k £6995
06 206 Verve 1.4 SW. China Blue, Alloys, Air con, 19k NOW £6995

207 0% Typical APR finance available.*
56 207 S 1.4, 16v, 5 door, Iron Grey, Air con, CD, ABS £8995
56 207 S Hdi 1.4, 3 door, Aegean Blue, ex demo, 2k £9295
07 207 S 1.4 , 16 valve, 5 door, Flamenco Red, Alloys, 4k £9495
07 207 S Hdi 90, 3 door, Aegean Blue, economical NOW £9995
56 207 Sport Hdi 110, 5 door, ex demo, Lacerta Yellow £10495
56 207 GT 150, Full Leather, Cruise control, JBL Hi- fi NOW £10995

307 PETROL
52 307 Rapier 1.6, 5 door, Aluminium, Alloys, Air con £5495
54 307 S 1.6, 5 door, Aegean Blue, Alloys, Air con, 1 owner £6795
05 307 X Line 1.6, 5 door, Onyx Black, One owner, 21k £6995
55 307 S 1.6, Automatic, Iron Grey, Air con, Sun roof, 17k £8595
55 307 SE 1.6 Automatic, Iron Grey, Climate Control, 12k £8995
07 307 X Line 1.4, 16 valve, 5 door, delivery mileage, metallics £9422
56 307 S 1.6 Automatic, 5 door, Iron Grey, Alloys, 7k £9680
07 307 Feline 180, 3 door, Aluminium, Cerbere Leather, 3k NOW £10995

307 DIESEL 0% Typical APR finance available.*
55 307 S Hdi 110, 5 door, Aegean Blue, Alloys, Air con NOW £8495
55 307 S Hdi 110, 5 door, Mulberry metallic, Electrics pack £8995
55 307 SE Hdi 110, 5 door, Onyx Black, Climate, Multi CD £9495
56 307 S HDI 90, 5 door, Iron Grey, Economy with power NOW £9495
55 307 Quiksilver HDI 136, Smartnav, 17" Alloys, Climate NOW £9495
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307 ESTATE/SW 0% Typical APR finance available.*
03 307 SW SE Hdi, Aegean Blue, Climate, Alloys, 43k £7295
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56 307 SE HDI 110 SW, Aluminium, Agave velour, Multi CD £11495
56 307 SW SE 1.6 AUTOMATIC, Himalayan Grey, 2k £11995
07 307 SE HDI 136 SW, Onyx Black, Agave Velour, Climate, 6k £13990

407 SALOON 0% Typical APR finance available.*
55 407 SV 2.2, AUTOMATIC, Iron Grey, Electric seats, Parking aid £10695
06 407 SE HDI 136, Moonstone, ABS, CD, Climate, 17k NOW £10895
55 407 SE HDI 136, AUTOMATIC, Ruby Red, Alloys, Climate £11695
56 407 SE HDI 136, AUTOMATIC, Aluminium, Cruise control £12680

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55(06) 407 Coupe 2.7V6 Hdi GT Automatic, Aluminium, Black Leather £16995

407 STATION WAGON 0% Typical APR finance available.*
56 407 GT V6 HDI 210, Automatic, Onyx Black, Leather Full spec £16995

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54 807 Executive Hdi 110, Astor Grey, 7 seats, Climate, CD £11995

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53 206 CC, 1.6 S Automatic, Aluminium, Alloys, Air Con, ... £9250
53 206 CC, 1.6 Allure, Diablo Red, Black Leather, One owner £9450
53 206 CC, 1.6 Allure, Onyx Black, Leather, CD, Alloys £9450
54 206 CC 1.6 Allure, Aluminium, Black leather, Alloys £10495
05 307CC 2.0, Aegean Blue, one owner, Alloys £10995
55 206 CC, 2.0 Allure, Flamenco Red, Black Leather £11395
05 307 CC 2.0, 138 bhp, Onyx Black, Alloys, CD, ABS, 24k £11995
55 307CC, 180 SE, Facelift model, Onyx Black, CD, ABS £13995
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07 207 Sport Hdi 90, 5 door, Iron Grey, Alloys, ABS £10995
56 307 Sport Hdi 110, 5 door, Iron Grey, Black Leather, 8k £11695
07 307 SE Hdi 136 Station Wagon, Diablo Red, Climate control £13995
07 307 SE Hdi 136 Station Wagon, Abyss Blue, Agave velour £13995
07 307 Sport 2.0 Convertible, Diablo Red, Black leather, 6k £16495

* Finance subject to status- Terms & conditions apply- Written details on request- Over 18's only.

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†Typical 5.9% APR applies to selected 207 models. Offers subject to status. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from the dealer address above and Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. ^This payment does not have to be made if you choose to hand your car back to Peugeot. Prices, offers and information correct at time of going to press. Offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered from 12/11/07 until such point as they may be withdrawn by the above dealer at its discretion. Offers subject to availability. *Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 month's Government Vehicle Excise Duty, £50.00 Government First Registration Fee and apply to 107 Urban 1.0 Litre Hatch 3 dr and 207 m:play 1.4 8v 75 Hatch 3dr. Full terms and conditions available to view at your local Robins and Day dealership or at www.robinsandday.co.uk. (PEUG13464)

Rugged Freelander 2

DrivingReview



by **STEVE LOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

LandRoverFreelander 2



SOMETIMES it's hard to be objective when reviewing cars, so I delayed getting around to the Land Rover Freelander 2.

Why? While I liked the original's adherence – literally – to Land Rover's off-roading heritage, I could not love a car styled to shout 'ruggedness and dependability' when it spent so much time having everyday niggles fixed due to flakey build and reliability.

So, is the Mark II any better? Only time will really tell, but there is strong evidence that Ford has finally got hold of its acquisition and sorted out quality across the Land Rover range – just in time to put it up for sale.

As a result, the latest Freelander justifies the '2' suffix to differentiate it from what went before in terms of everyday staying power – it surpasses the Mk 1 off-road too.

OK, the Freelander 2 might be dearer than most compact 4x4 rivals, but you get genuine off-road power – few competitors are more than 'soft-roaders', more politely labelled SUVs (sports utility vehicles).

Unlike bigger Land Rover models, the Freelander does not have low ratios, but the low down power of the 2.2 Peugeot/Ford turbodiesel under the bonnet of the test car, plus the Hill Descent Control feature introduced on the original Freelander, is enough to power and control the car up and down steep slopes.

We proved the point at the Land Rover Experience Centre at Eastwell Park, near Ashford, where we crashed up and down steep slopes, slippery with damp chalk and littered with large flinty boulders – see some of the action in the Freelander's Motors TV video road test at www.carsforkent.co.uk.

The car also romped through the 'Elephant's footprints' – craters and hillocks that show how Land Rovers can balance diagonally on just two wheels without being halted or twisted by the terrain.

The course is designed to show Land Rovers at their best, and potential off-road conditions at their worst, and dealers offer a free driving course there to anyone buying a new Land Rover.

The fact that quite a few buyers don't bother to take their freebie – though the exact figures are not quoted – is yet more proof that many people buy a 4x4 without any serious intent to head for the rough stuff.

In the case of a Land Rover, it is a bit like buying a pair of wellies and wearing them as slippers.

It is fortunate then that this car's superb off-road ability does not compromise its on-road qualities: it handles tidily and comfortably with little body roll on the bends.

Steering feedback is good too – you need it off-road. Though larger than the old car, it also feels nimbler.

The diesel's off-road clout works equally well for the car on tarmac, so there is lively acceleration on tap and a respectable 30-plus mpg average available even with the six-speed auto option – this costs an extra £1,370, but is well worth it for the smooth changing and the option to slip into sporty manual mode.

The refinement and cruising ability is impressive too – this is some all-rounder.

The Freelander's interior is finished to a high standard and though the dashboard lacks a bit of harmony, most controls fall to hand well and there is plenty of stowage.

Comfort levels are good front and back with everyone getting a good high-up view from the cabin and decent space for luggage behind them.

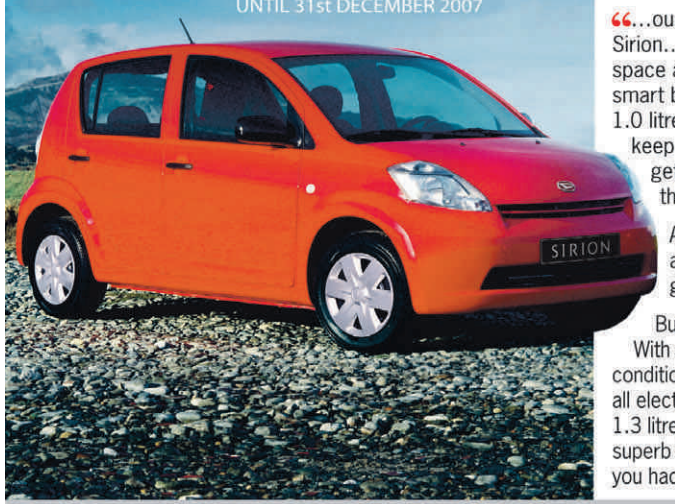
Our flagship HSE trim test car looked a bit pricey at more than £30,000, but diesel prices start at under £21,000 – very tempting, whether you really need off-road ability or simply want the Land Rover cachet.

I might have been reluctant to test this car, but I said goodbye with regret.

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Prices correct at time of going to print.

Official Government Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (Litres per 100 km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) Urban Cycle 32.8 (8.6) – 46.3 (6.1) Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2) – 64.2 (4.4) Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 56.5 (5.0) CO_2 emissions 118 – 151

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MEAN MACHINE: Land Rover's Freelander 2 is dearer than many compact 4x4s, but what you get is a genuine off-roader that's also very good on-road



DrivingStats

- Land Rover Freelander 2 HSE 2.2-litre auto £32,330.
- Range: £20,960-34,095.
- Garage stats: 4.5m by 2m five-door 4x4 off-roader.
- Powertrain: 2,179cc/158bhp four-cylinder turbodiesel driving all four wheels through a six-speed auto gearbox.
- Performance: top speed 112mph and 0-62mph in 10.5 seconds.
- How green?: category-F and 224g/km CO2 emissions.
- Official fuel figures: combined 33.2mpg.
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): *****
- Fuel tank: 68 litres/14.9 gallons.
- Insurance group: 13.
- Warranty: three years/unlimited miles.
- Website: www.landrover.co.uk
- Rivals: BMW X-3, Chevrolet Captiva, Dodge Nitro, Honda CR-V, Jeep Patriot/Compass or Cherokee, Mitsubishi Shogun Sport, Nissan X-Trail, and Vauxhall Antara.

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Model shown for illustrative purposes only. fuel consumption in mpg (ltrs/100km): Urban 31.4 (9.0), Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6), Combined 41.5 (6.8). CO2 emissions 163g/km. Prices are correct at time of going to print and are subject to change without notice. Offers valid until 31st December 2007. Subject to availability at SMC Mitsubishi only.

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Model shown is New Fabia 1 1.2 60bhp. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the New Fabia Range: Urban 27.7 (10.2) - 49.6 (5.7), Extra-urban 47.1 (6.0) - 68.9 (4.1), Combined 37.7 (7.5) - 61.4 (4.6). CO_2 emissions for the New Fabia Range 120 - 180g/km. Retail sales only. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s for registrations before 31st December 2007 (subject to availability). Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Skoda Finance is a trading name of Volkeswagen Financial Services (UK) Limited, Freepost VWFS.



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Amount of credit	£8,999.31
Optional final payment	£4,000.00

Total amount payable	£13,518.47
Acceptance fee†	£95.00
Option to purchase fee††	£60.00
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Typical 5.5% APR	

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Model shown is Octavia Classic 1.6 FSI 115bhp including optional metallic paint at £350 RRP. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Octavia Range: Urban 23.7 (11.9) – 44.8 (6.3), Extra-urban 40.9 (6.9) – 67.3 (4.2), Combined 32.5 (8.7) – 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 emissions for the Octavia Range 130 – 207g/km. Applies to all Octavia models purchased with Solutions from Škoda Finance. Retail sales only. †Payable with first payment. ††Payable with optional final payment. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s for registrations before 31st December 2007 (subject to availability). Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Škoda Finance is a trading name of Volkswagen Financial Services (UK) Limited, Freepost VWFS.

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02 '02	FABIA CLASSIC 1.4 MPI	60k	DYNAMIC BLUE	£3,990.00
52 '02	FABIA CLASSIC 1.4 MPI	24k	DYNAMIC BLUE	£4,790.00
Y '01	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 MPI	44k	DIAMOND SILVER	£4,490.00
03 '03	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 MPI	19k	CANDY WHITE	£5,690.00
03 '03	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 MPI	48k	ADMIRAL BLUE	£4,990.00
04 '04	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 16v	29k	GRAPHITE GREY	£6,490.00
02 '02	FABIA COMFORT 1.9 SDI	81k	DIAMOND SILVER	£4,490.00
54 '04	FABIA AMBIENTE 1.2 12v	17k	STONE GREY	£6,790.00
55 '05	FABIA AMBIENTE 1.2 12v	30k	FLAMENCO RED	£6,990.00
04 '04	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.4 16v	70k	GRAPHITE GREY	£5,790.00
55 '06	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.4 16v	29k	HIGHLAND GREEN	£8,490.00
55 '05	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.9 TDI	24k	DIAMOND SILVER	£9,990.00
53 '03	FABIA BLUELINE 1.2 12v	31k	ADMIRAL BLUE	£5,790.00
55 '05	FABIA VRS 1.9 TDI	27k	BLACK MAGIC	£9,990.00
06 '06	FABIA VRS 1.9 TDI	11k	CORRIDA RED	£10,990.00
56 '07	FABIA VRS 1.9 TDI	5k	CORRIDA RED	£11,490.00
FABIA 5DR ESTATE				
53 '03	FABIA CLASSIC 1.4 MPI	57k	LEMON YELLOW	£4,790.00
05 '05	FABIA AMBIENTE 1.9 SDI	33k	FLAMENCO RED	£7,990.00
04 '04	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.4 16v	12k	DARK BLUE	£7,490.00
06 '06	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.4 16v	21k	GRAPHITE GREY	£9,490.00
52 '02	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.9 TDI	47k	NATURE GREEN	£6,790.00
OCTAVIA 5DR HATCH				
54 '05	OCTAVIA CLASSIC 1.9 TDI	16k	GRAPHITE GREY	£7,990.00
56 '06	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.6 FSI	10k	DIAMOND SILVER	£11,490.00
54 '04	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI	31k	STONE GREY	£9,490.00
54 '04	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI	27k	GRAPHITE GREY	£9,990.00
54 '04	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI	29k	SAHARA BEIGE	£9,690.00
52 '02	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 1.8T	22k	EUCALYPTUS GREEN	£5,990.00
52 '02	OCTAVIA VRS 1.8 20vT	69k	RALLY RED	£6,490.00
06 '06	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI	11k	DIAMOND SILVER	£13,990.00
07 '07	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI	1k	RACE BLUE	£16,490.00
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07 '07	FABIA 1 1.2 12v	1k	FLAMENCO RED	£8,990.00
07 '07	FABIA 1 1.2 12v	1k	SATIN GREY	£8,990.00
57 '07	FABIA 1 1.2 12v		FLAMENCO RED	£8,990.00
57 '07	FABIA 1 1.2 12v		TANGERINE ORANGE	£8,990.00
07 '07	FABIA 1 1.4 TDI	2k	BLACK MAGIC	£10,490.00
07 '07	FABIA 2 1.2 12v	3k	TANGERINE ORANGE	£9,490.00
57 '07	FABIA 2 1.2 12v		HIGHLAND GREEN	£9,990.00
FABIA 5DR ESTATE				
07 '07	FABIA BOHEMIA 1.2 12v		SATIN GREY	£8,990.00
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56 '07	ROOMSTER 1 1.4 16v	2k	CORRIDA RED	£8,990.00
07 '07	ROOMSTER 1 1.4 16v	2k	DIAMOND SILVER	£10,990.00
07 '07	ROOMSTER 2 1.4 16v	2k	STORM BLUE	£10,490.00
07 '07	ROOMSTER 2 1.6 16v	3k	ANTHRACITE GREY	£10,990.00
07 '07	ROOMSTER 2 1.6 16v		OCEAN BLUE	£11,490.00
57 '07	ROOMSTER 2 1.6 16v		ANTHRACITE GREY	£12,290.00
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ACCORD, 2.0 SE Saloon 4dr VTec, 04/2001, air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control power assisted steering service history, silver, 55000 miles, £3,995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

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156, 1.8 T SPARK, 2000, red, 67759 miles, £2795, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

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A4, 2.0 TDI S-LINE, 2006, trim: leather engine size: 2000 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, gunmetal grey, 20300 miles, £19795, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

A6, 2.0 se, 1996, silver, 125000 miles, £995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

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MATIZ, SE A/C, 116639, finished in super red with red interior manual, red, 1000 miles, £5995, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

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BERLINGO 600, 09 1999, 1.9d white mot jul 08, £1995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

C3 PLURIEL, 1.4i 2dr [75] convertible, silver, 33090 miles, £6995, Wilmoths Folkestone, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

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GRAND MOVE, v328ohj, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, metallic paintwork, electric front windows, radio, red, 45000 miles, £2699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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XJS, Xj-S 4.0 Sports, 183461, immobiliser, remote central locking, full leather, air conditioning, air bag, abs, electric windows, stereo, electric mirrors, uk supplied, metallic paintwork, 16'' alloys, red, 90000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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IS, 1s300 Automatic, silver, 2003, 31000 miles, automatic, petrol, 4 doors, 2 previous owners, £9750, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

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323, Lxi 5dr, 5504079, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, rear spoiler, central locking, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, radio cassette, twin air bags, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, red, 30000 miles, £4495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MAZDA2, .0 Option Pk, 229649, mazda mx-5 2.0 option pk, grey, 2006, 7000 miles, manual, petrol, 2 doors, 1 previous owners, £13789, Drake and Fletcher Mazda, Maidstone, 0845 130 3275 (TRADE)

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190, 2.0 Saloon 4d 1997cc, 1996 (p), pas, abs, air bag, passenger air bag, electric sunroof, alloy wheels, remote central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, one owner, service history, stereo many more quality pre-owned cars for sale on: www.rivieracarsales.co.uk, red, 75625 miles, £2695, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

C CLASS, C180 Classic 4dr, 01/02/2002, abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 49489 miles, £7499, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

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MGF, 1.8i V V C, 1999, blue, 92154 miles, £3995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

TF, 135 Sprint, 277649, mg tf 135 sprint mazda mazda Maidstone drake & fletcher silver, 2003, 37500 miles, manual, petrol, 2 doors, 1 previous owners, silver, £5889, Drake and Fletcher Mazda, Maidstone, 0845 130 3275 (TRADE)

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COOPER, 1.6 3DR, 2003, part leather, 3dr, monaco blue, 14000 miles, £9995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

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MICRA, 1.0 16v Equation (City Pk) Hatchback 3d 998cc (1998), s, red, 60, 000 miles, £1499.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

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106, 1.1 Zest 2 Hatchback 3d 1124cc, 51, silver, 50, 000 miles, £2999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

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SATRIA, Li, 2004, metallic blue, 34000 miles, £2995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

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CLIO, RIP CURL 1.2 16V, 2007, trim: cloth engine size: 1200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, eclipse grey, 4000 miles, £8495, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

MAGANE 1.6, 2001, silver, 73866 miles, £2995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

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25, II 1.4, 2002, blue, 46439 miles, £2995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

400, 420 si, 2000, blue with black leather, 64868 miles, £1895, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

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9-3, 1.8t Linear Convertible 2d 1998cc (2004), lc54uwd, black, 28000 miles, £14495, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

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IBIZA, 1.9TDi FR 3dr, 01/09/2004, cd player abs power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 39303 miles, £7999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

TOLEDO, Se Tdi 130, 278649, grey, 2004, 46000 miles, manual, diesel, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, grey, £6950, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

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BEETLE, CABRIOLET 1.6, 2004, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, monaco blue, 25000 miles, £10995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

GOLF, 2.0 Avantgarde Cabriolet 2d 1984cc, r, lovely car. purple, 75, 000 miles, £3200.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

LUPO, E 3dr, immobiliser, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, pas, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, radio cassette, metallic blue, 13000 miles, £4990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

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Warm welcome for bank rate cut

By **PETER BOYES**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT businesses have welcomed the Bank of England's decision last week to cut interest rates.

The Monetary Policy Committee cut the bank rate by 0.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

Jo James, of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "There does seem to have been a slowdown in economic activity in the county of late, although nothing catastrophic thus far.

"What is important is to try and maintain the economic stability we have enjoyed in recent years, and not suffer any major downturns.

"I think business in Kent has been waiting to see what the Bank would do.

"This cut should help to give companies the incentive to continue confident trading."

David Kern, economic adviser to the British Chambers of Commerce, said many authoritative analysts had advocated a cut in rates.

He added: "The cut in rates has helped to alleviate potential dangers facing the economy.

"A cut in rates was clearly needed to counter the growing international threats emanating from the US, and to unblock the dangerous obstacles preventing the banking system from operating smoothly.

Inflation

"Threats to growth are much bigger now than risks of higher inflation.

"Worrying signs that the UK housing market is weakening rapidly reinforce further the case for a cut in rates."

With global risks likely to persist, a further small cut in rates may be required early in 2008, said Mr Kern.

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A KENT-based design company has won a prestigious industry award for its website. Created's site was designed and built by the company's director Warren Sutton and was awarded Best Bilingual Website at the Transmanche Technology awards. The company, which is based in Folkestone, specialises in graphic design, website creation and photography. Transmanche Technology offers IT support to small businesses in Medway, Shepway and Northern France. Mr Sutton said: "Created is a one-stop-shop for all marketing and communication requirements. We are able to work closely with clients, either face to face or remotely." He said the company had a wide range of clients from both the UK and Europe. For more information visit the company's website at www.created.com.

Drugs giant turns Santa

MORE than 800 presents are being sent to disadvantaged children in east Kent this Christmas by staff at a pharmaceutical company.

Workers at Pfizer's Sandwich site turned Santa after getting involved in the company's Seasonal Smiles campaign.

Research site head Dr Annette Doherty said: "Seasonal Smiles is incredibly popular with everyone at Sandwich.

"As one of the biggest employers in Kent, we are delighted to be brightening up Christmas for so many local young people and the community groups supporting them.

"We have Seasonal Smiles Christmas trees on site displaying 'tags' which outline details of the children we are supporting."

Members of staff at the company's site select a 'tag' and then choose an appropriate Christmas gift between £10 and £20, she said.

Gifts will go to children involved and helped by the organisations including the Oasis Refuge in Margate, which helps women and their children live life free of violence and intimidation, and the Rising Sun Refuge in Canterbury which provides crisis accommodation for women and children exposed to domestic.

Dr Doherty added: "It's fantastic how much time and care everyone puts into choosing and wrapping their Seasonal Smiles gifts and Pfizer is proud to be supporting such a campaign."

Firms upbeat

DIRECTORS and owners of Kent companies are upbeat about future growth despite the recent market turmoil.

Two thirds of the entrepreneurs surveyed at an event last week believe their company will grow by more than 10 per cent over the next 12 months.

One third felt their business would see growth of over 20 per cent in 2008.

The event was hosted by Barclays Commercial in Kent.

The bank's area corporate director Roger Cowap said: "Despite recent market turmoil, business confidence among the area's owner-managers is high with the majority confident of their expansion.

"But to stay ahead of the competition, mid-sized businesses need to look at how they manage risks, be it interest rates linked to borrowing costs, foreign exchange fluctuations or the prices of materials or energy."




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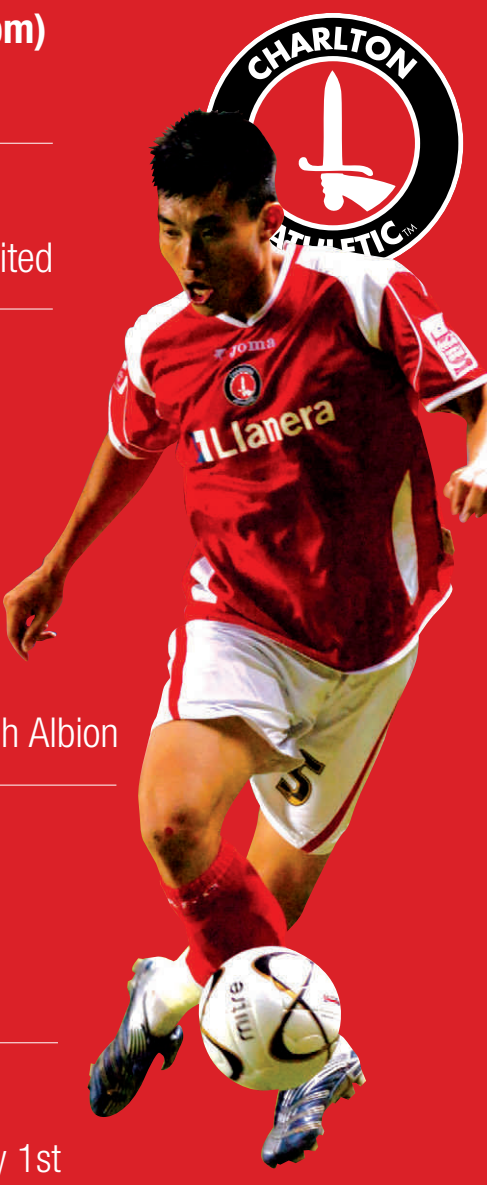
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CHARLTON ATHLETIC VALLEY EXPRESS

Gunners aim for Gills teen

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

TALENTED youngster Luke Freeman could soon be rubbing shoulders with Cesc Fabregas and Robin Van Persie after it emerged Gillingham's young striker is in talks with Arsenal.

The 15-year-old striker became Gills' youngest ever player when he came on against Barnet in the FA Cup last month. Two subsequent appearances from the bench have caught the eye of several big clubs, with Arsenal believed to be at the front of the queue for his signature.

Stimson said he would not interfere with the youngster's decision and acknowledged the prospect of joining a huge club would be irresistible.

He said: "In my own opinion, if it was my son and he was 15 and he had the chance to go to Arsenal, I could not turn them down because I think the football that club plays is the best in the world.

"But I can see the other point of view – would he be better off being in the first team with grown men and getting experience?

"It is up to Luke, he is a special talent who has got the potential to go a long way."

Approach

Although Freemam is too young to have a professional contract with Gillingham, the club intends to hold out for a fee if a formal approach is made by another team.

Stimson said: "There will be a fee required to buy him because he is an asset and there are some young kids at this present time going for some big money.

"At the end of the day it will be the chairman's decision and I'm sure when you have got teams like that involved, they are not going to try and get one over on you."

One of the potential perks of a move to a Premiership club could be an arrangement in which players could be loaned to Gillingham or a lucrative pre-season friendly organised between the sides.



WANTED: Luke Freeman is sought after by a host of top clubs Picture: KEITH SLATER

While Freeman's future is undecided, a confirmed exit from Priestfield this week was youth coach Scott Fitzgerald, who left to take over the youth set-up at Millwall.

He joined Gillingham in July, but after receiving an offer from one of his former clubs, Fitzgerald has decided to move on.

Stimson said: "Obviously having played there it appealed to him. He wanted to go to Millwall and I'm one of these people who thinks if you don't want to be here, then move on."

A replacement is expected to be announced in the next few days.



Picture: HONDAF1.COM

Honda give Conway taste for F1

KENT racer Mike Conway hopes to secure the 2008 GP2 crown next season, after a mixed debut in the series this year.

The Sevenoaks-based driver finished 14th in the GP2 standings in September, but it could have been better for the rookie racer who suffered mechanical problems in the second half of the season.

In his first race at Bahrain, he managed to claim fifth position driving for the Super Nova team. The highlight of the year was a strong performance in the British round of the championship at Silverstone, where he claimed second place.

Conway is looking to secure a drive for next season's championship and believes he has what it takes to follow in the footsteps of F1 star Lewis Hamilton.

Conway said: "My goal will be to take the championship title. After my rookie season I have the experience of the tracks, although with a new car being introduced none of us have yet driven the 2008 racer.

"Testing starts at the end of February, so I hope to be behind the wheel of one of them ahead of the new season. In the meantime, I'm concentrating on my fitness and preparing for the challenges the New Year will bring."

The former British Formula Three Champion has also been selected to represent the Honda F1 team as part of their young driver programme.

Two weeks ago, Conway got the opportunity to test the Honda F1 car at the Jerez international circuit along with three GP2 drivers.

He completed 72 laps in the same machine that Jenson Button raced in this year's F1 championship and set the second fastest time.

A delighted Conway said: "It was awesome. The car was very well balanced and more powerful than the GP2 car I'm used to. It was a real pleasure to drive."

EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID PRITCHARD



BIG FIGURE: Francis Baron says Premiership deal will not affect lower-league teams

County rugby teams won't get a slice of £110m funding

But grassroots game is wealthier than ever before, says RFU chief

THE new deal agreed with Premiership rugby clubs will "not make one bit of difference" to the amount clubs in Kent receive from the RFU, according to the governing body's chief executive Francis Baron.

After years of negotiations, the RFU and the Premiership – rugby's elite – agreed an eight-year deal worth £110m last month. It raised concerns that clubs lower down the league pyramid would suffer, but Baron rebuffed the claims.

He said: "The headline figure was £110m over eight years. It sounds like a lot of money but if you get everything right it is peanuts because TV rights will dwarf it over the years.

"The new deal with the Premiership will not make one bit of difference to what we put into the grassroots game. If you look at the numbers over the last five years, the amount of money we have been investing in the community game has gone through the roof."

The RFU splits its funding equally between the grassroots and the elite game, which includes the Premiership, all the England national sides, 14 regional academies, elite referees and its own sports science and sports medicine departments.

The success of the game depends on the fortunes of the senior national side, which generates around 95 per cent of the RFU's revenues. As the team's popularity boomed with an unexpected run to the World Cup final in October, the RFU sold more merchandise in a few weeks than it had in the previous year.

Baron said: "The 50/50 split does seem right and fair. You need to have a strong top tier if you are to have a good England side – it doesn't appear out of the ether. That is why you need a strong Premiership and you need the supporting leagues below it so there is a pathway to the top.

"Overall I think we have got it about right. What we are trying to do is to have a growing game and to make sure the resources are there for England to be successful. That will ensure the 50 per cent that the community game get will be from a growing share."

According to the RFU, rugby has been one of the most successful sports to tap into the variety of different funding streams the Government has to offer. But while the money is available for allocation to clubs, Baron acknowledged most clubs were unaware the schemes existed.

He said: "We have got to make clubs fully aware of all the initiatives available and where the information is.

"It is not just in Kent that we come across these issues, it is everywhere. We almost pull our hair out when trying to put a contract in place. There is a hell of a lot of information there, but we need to make sure the clubs are aware of it."

He also revealed the planned restructuring of rugby's National Leagues would not happen until 2009 at the earliest.

The proposal to make National League One fully professional and reduce it from 16 teams to 12 would have consequences further down the league ladder, affecting Blackheath, Westcombe Park and Canterbury.

It had previously been suggested the changes could happen as early as next season, but Baron indicated an agreement with second-tier clubs would not be reached until the spring. Only then would the RFU begin negotiating with the teams in the second and third divisions.

He told Kent on Sunday: "You can't do everything at the same time. We know everybody is keen to get to the end result but we have to go through a process. We want everything sorted out next year so clubs know where they stand. We are looking for a change in the 2009-10 season."

Baron, along with RFU chairman Martyn Thomas, visited Kent last weekend in a three-day roadshow, which included an open question and answer session and visits to a series of games across the county.

It was the second time the governing body's top officials have visited the county since the initiative began five years ago.

And Baron believes it is a vital tool to discover the underlying issues in the game in different regions.

He said: "It really is listening to people's view at the grassroots level on their own patch telling us the problems they have. You always pick up things you have got to take back and look at and we have got to change.

"The problems faced by volunteers in different parts of the country change because the nature of the game is different.

"You can't have a blanket approach to the administration of the game because you have to realise the differences in the different areas of the country."

News and sport updated daily online
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WIN! New cricket book by Aggers

KENT cricket supporters can relive the moment Rob Key's team lifted the Twenty20 Cup in thrilling style last summer when they buy Cricket Year 2007, available now in bookshops.

There is a special feature on that August day, amid a comprehensive review of the entire English domestic season and reports by editor Jonathan Agnew on all England's Test and one-day international matches played in the 12 months up to September 30.

Former Kent and England spinner Derek Underwood's appreciation of current England slow left-armer Monty Panesar is another of the book's collection of special features, while there are also separate sections on the cricket years of the world's other nine Test nations.

Kent on Sunday has teamed up with publishers A&C Black to offer our readers the chance to win a free copy of Cricket Year 2007, the popular autumn annual's 26th edition.

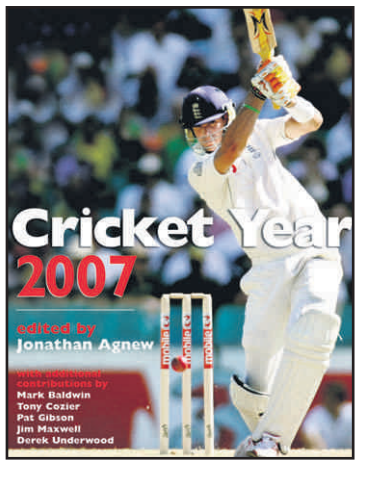
To win one of the two free copies available in this competition, simply answer the following question:

Q) Who led Kent to Twenty20 Cup victory in 2007?

Send your answer, with your name and home address, on a postcard to: Kent on Sunday, Cricket Year Competition, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR, or e-mail to: sports@kosmedia.co.uk.

The deadline for entries is noon on Thursday, December 20 and the winners will be the first two correct entries to be drawn. Names of the winners will be published in Kent on Sunday, and the books will be posted directly to them.

• Cricket Year 2007 – for the first time published in full colour throughout – is priced at £24.99, can be ordered via www.acblack.com.



Addicks remember the big comeback

FOOTBALL: Charlton Athletic celebrate one of the greatest comebacks of their history next week with the 50th anniversary of the club's clash with Huddersfield Town.

The team were 5-1 down with 28 minutes to go at home, and playing with only 10 players.

An estimated 3,000 Charlton supporters left the Valley during the second division clash in December 1957.

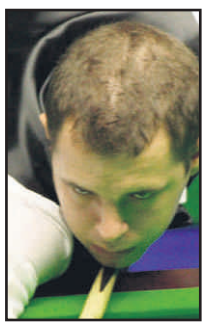
Unfortunately, their decision meant they missed an amazing comeback in which the Addicks recovered to win 7-6, with winger Johnny Summers scoring five second-half goals after changing his boots at half-time.

The 50th anniversary of that extraordinary fixture is on Friday, and a day later the club is marking the date by producing a special matchday programme for the visit of Hull City.

Only six of the Charlton players in action that day remain alive, including centre-half Derek Ufton, who suffered a dislocated shoulder in the first half and only learned of the incredible game after he recovered from an anaesthetic in hospital.

"I couldn't believe it. They told me the score was 4-1 just before they knocked me out and I joked that they couldn't do without me. Then looked what happened."

Hawkins loses in final-frame thriller



SNOOKER: Barry Hawkins lost a final-frame decider in the second round of the UK Snooker Championships to miss out on a mouth-watering quarter-final with Ronnie O'Sullivan last week.

Beckenham-based Hawkins and his opponent Jamie Cope contested a tight match which went to the wire in Telford, before the Kent player eventually lost 9-8.

The 28-year-old player set up the clash with Cope after launching an astonishing comeback to beat Ali Carter in the final frame. From 8-3 down Hawkins won six frames in a row to seal a superb victory.

Hawkins's first event in 2008 is a qualifying tournament for the World Championships, before he takes his place at the prestigious Masters at Wembley on January 13.

Runner's boost for Beijing hopes



ATHLETICS: Michael Skinner continued his pursuit for a place in the UK team for the Beijing Olympics with a top-20 finish in the European Cross Country Championships.

The Blackheath and Bromley AC runner finished 17th in the event in Toro, Northern Spain, and was the third member of a four-strong UK team that narrowly missed out on bronze.

Skinner, 28, from West Wickham, said: "I was pleased with how I ran, but it was gutting to miss out on the team medal. The course was very flat and conditions pretty good apart from a strong wind.

"Looking ahead, I will probably be heading to Belfast for the International Cross-Country race in early January and then to the Great Edinburgh International Cross Country race on January 12."

There will no time for seasonal excesses with Skinner training even on Christmas Day. The dedicated former 1500m specialist has been stepping up in distance and is aiming for a place in the UK team for the Beijing Olympics next year at 5000m.

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FOOTBALL
Gunners have sights on promising Gills teenager **86**



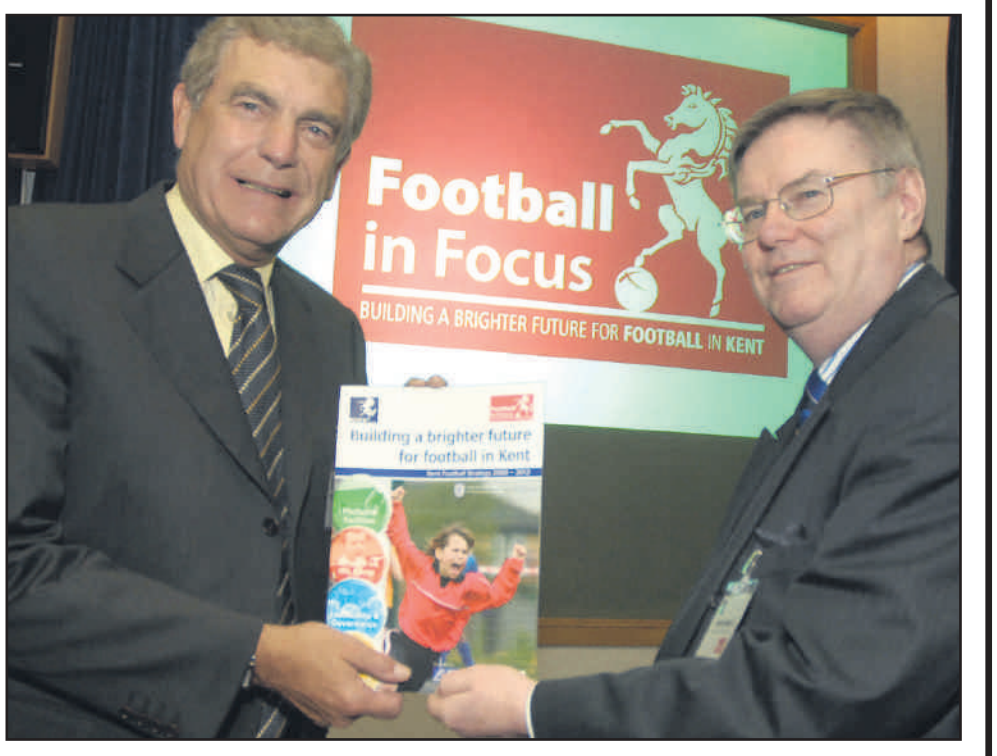
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RUGBY
EXCLUSIVE: Interview with Rugby Football Union chief Francis Baron **87**

SIR TREV: YOUNGSTERS NEED SPACE TO PLAY IN

Legend backs drive to improve dilapidated football facilities



FOOTBALL FOCUS: Sir Trevor Brooking with Kent FA chairman Barry Bright at the launch of the Build a Brighter Future for Football in Kent campaign Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

By **GLENN PEARSON**

THE Kent FA have launched a blueprint for the next five years that identifies four key areas that need to be addressed to improve grassroots football in the county.

The strategy was announced at a meeting at County Hall in Maidstone on Friday by the Kent FA chairman Barry Bright and chief executive Keith Masters.

Sir Trevor Brooking, FA director of development, attended to discuss how Kent's strategy would fit into the national sport and how the county should be tapping into additional funds that could help improve the game.

The Kent County Football Association (KCFA) aim to tackle four issues during the next five years: pitches and facilities, respect in the game, leadership and governance and development and support.

In Kent, 44,000 people are involved in grassroots football every week, but there are concerns that more people – especially the younger generation – are losing interest in the game because of problems with facilities in the county.

Although many pitches have deteriorated over the years, hiring one can cost as much as £80 a game – money which is not always ploughed back into maintenance.

Also, many players are still forced to get ready in the back of cars because there are no changing rooms. The new strategy aims to change this and to encourage young people back into the sport.

Pride

Bright told Kent on Sunday: "The strategy is needed to basically ensure the next generation and current generation of young people in this county have a sport – in this case football – and they have facilities that they will look at and think and take pride in the fun and enjoyment of the game.

"There is no doubt pitches and facilities have declined over the last 10-15 years, and we need to get them back. Young people today demand far more than they used to and it doesn't take a lot to move them away.

"There are thousands of boys and girls in the county who are playing football and they want a situation whereby there is a reasonable surface to play on and a half-decent dressing room."

An area the KCFA will be looking at in the next few years is opening schools for community use, which will mean clubs in the county could have access to better pitches, facilities and top-class coaches.

Bright added: "There are talks about the cost involved in playing the game. There is an idea that Kent is cash rich and frankly there are many deprived areas of the county where people are unemployed and need something. If football can give that to them and make them feel part of society and they enjoy it, that's great.

"I was delighted to hear Kent County Council talking about opening up school facilities. That is important and if they can be made available, there are some superb facilities in this county, but it has to be at a cost that people can afford. There is no point having them if they are so expensive that people won't use them."

Sir Trevor, the West Ham and England legend, talked about the need to improve football at grassroots level and that started with skilled coaches working with players that are not under pressure.

He told Kent on Sunday: "We need to change the way we introduce youngsters to the game and take the intensity out of it. We need to get specialised coaches working with age-appropriate youngsters. It's a start but it is no good having good facilities and pitches if the coach is poor and no-one is enjoying the involvement of a good session.

"It is a starting point because if there isn't anywhere to go out and kick a ball about that leads to frustration in youngsters.

"It is a case of trying to get a concerted plan across the country of what works and what doesn't and trying to pool all the funding in the streams that are out there, because it can work.

"Football is perceived to be awash with money, but at community level that is far from the case."

Sir Trevor also called on the media to help improve the behaviour of supporters of clubs across the county by "naming and shaming" those clubs that allowed parents to abuse players, coaches and referees during and after games.

He said: "Abusive parents are not going to help the development of our young players. Halfway through the season I don't see why you couldn't publish a fair play league and name some of those clubs that are not meeting the standard."

Bright said the respect issue is something the KCFA would be looking at and would be prepared to name and shame clubs in the future.

He said: "We have heard the respect issue, problems with facilities and misbehaviour from a minority of adults that follow youngster's teams. They need to address that.

"At the moment, referees are walking away from the game. There were 7,000 referees that came into the game last year in this country, and 7,000 are lost. We need to address that."

'Football is perceived to be awash with money, but at community level that is far from the case'

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